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HISTORY  
OF  
Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties  
Minnesota

THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

JOHN A. BROWN  
Editor-in-Chief

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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VOLUME II

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ILLUSTRATED

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HISTORY

Coltonwood and Western Counties

Minnesota

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

JOHN A. BROWN

Author

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# CONTENTS

## VOLUME I

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### COTTONWOOD COUNTY

CHAPTER I—RELATED STATE HISTORY.....	33
A portion of Minnesota Originally Included in Louisiana Purchase—Indian Cessions and Treaties—Territorial Government Established—Boundaries—Governor Alexander Ramsey—First Territorial Legislature—The Historic Council with the Indians at Traverse des Sioux—The Treaty—Indian Hunters Cause Trouble—Townsite Speculation—Constitutional Convention—First State Legislature—Admission of Minnesota as a State—Aid to Railroads—Financial Stringency—Unrest Among the Indians—Massacre of 1862—Punishment of the Indians—Subsequent Treaties—A Period of Rapid Development—Trouble Because of the State Issue of Railroad Bonds—Settlement of the Question and Activity in Railroad Building—Diversified Farming Interests—Population Statistics—Military Record—Name—Geography—Area—Rivers—Lakes—Elevations—Climate—Chronological History of the State.	
CHAPTER II—GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES..	59
Situation—Area—Natural Drainage—Streams—Lakes — Topography — Distances—Altitudes—Soil—Timber—Geological Structure—Water Falls and Cascades—Drift and Contour—Moraines—Boulders and Pebbles—Peat.	
CHAPTER III—PIONEER SETTLEMENT.....	79
“Dutch Charlie”—First Settlers—Struggles of the Pioneers—Winter of 1872-73—Old Settlers’ Association—Early Hardships of a Mail Carrier.	
CHAPTER IV—ORGANIZATION OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.....	90
Creation of—Area—Lakes—Soil—The Two “Stolen” Townships—County Government—No Hard County-seat Contests—County’s Condition in 1884—Organization of the County—First Events—Assessed Valuation—County Commissioners’ Proceedings—First District Appointments—Free Premiums—Grasshopper Appropriations—Taxes in 1877—Court House Building—Other Locations for County Offices—County Jail—Caring for the Poor—Russian Thistle Pest—County Officers’ Fees in 1909—Tax Levy for 1916-17—County Finances, July 1, 1916—County Officials, 1916—County and State Roads.	

## CONTENTS.

CHAPTER V—COUNTY AND STATE REPRESENTATION.....	110
Presidential Vote in Cottonwood County—State Senators—State Representatives—County Auditors—County Treasurers—Sheriffs—Registers of Deeds—Probate Judges—County Commissioners.	
CHAPTER VI—TOWNSHIPS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY.....	114
Civil Subdivisions—The Townships of Germantown, Amboy, Amo, Ann, Carson, Dale, Delton, Great Bend, Highwater, Lakeside, Midway, Mountain Lake, Rose Hill, Selma, Springfield, Southbrook, Storden, Westbrook—Villages of Jeffers, Delft, Bingham Lake, Mountain Lake, Storden and Westbrook.	
CHAPTER VII—AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.....	194
Fortunate Situation of Minnesota—Crop Failures Rare in Cottonwood County—Poultry Show—Early and Present Stock Farms—The Creamery Industry—Agricultural Societies—Farm Names—Agricultural Statistics—Columbian Exposition Premium—Stock Men of 1908.	
CHAPTER VIII—SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.....	205
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons—Royal Arch Masons—Order of the Eastern Star—Independent Order of Odd Fellows—Daughters of Rebekah—Ancient Order of United Workmen—Modern Woodmen of America—Royal Neighbors of America—Modern Brotherhood of America—Sons of Norway—Daughters of Norway—Knights of Columbus—Patrons of Husbandry.	
CHAPTER IX—PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.....	218
First Physician in Cottonwood County—Past and Present Physicians—Silas D. Allen.	
CHAPTER X—NEWSPAPERS.....	223
Papers, Past and Present, Published at Windom, Westbrook, Jeffers and Mountain Lake.	
CHAPTER XI—RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.....	226
Methodist Episcopal Churches—Presbyterian Churches—Baptist Churches—Danish Baptist Churches—Mission Band—Evangelical Lutheran Churches—Dowie Zionists—Lutheran Churches—Mennonite Church—Catholic Churches—Episcopal Church.	
CHAPTER XII—BENCH AND BAR.....	241
Pioneer Lawyers—Others of a Later Day—Members of the Bar in 1916—Court Officers.	
CHAPTER XIII—EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.....	244
Sterling Type of Pioneer Settlers—Early Educational Conditions and the Improvements Which Have Followed Through the Years—The Great Bend School House and Its Destruction—Early School Districts—An Early School—Early School Teachers—First School House in the County—Schools at Bingham Lake, Storden, Jeffers, Westbrook, Windom City and Mountain	



## CONTENTS.

Lake—Rural School Commencements—Salaries Paid County Superintendents—School Lands—County Superintendent's Report for 1915—An Early School Superintendent.

CHAPTER XIV—BANKS AND BANKING.....	267
Little Demand for Banks in Pioneer Days—Poverty of Early Days Changed to Prosperity and Full Bank Accounts—Banks at Windom, Jeffers, Storden, Mountain Lake, Westbrook, Bingham Lake and Delft—Recapitulation.	
CHAPTER XV—RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.....	277
Railroads in Cottonwood County Early in Its History—The "Currie" Branch and Other Lines Which Have Been Constructed in the County.	
CHAPTER XVI—MILITARY MATTERS.....	280
Grand Army of the Republic—Woman's Relief Corps—Helped in Capture of Jeff Davis—"We Are Growing Old, John"—Soldiers Who Pledged Their Votes to Grant and Wilson—Spanish-American War Soldiers.	
CHAPTER XVII—CITY OF WINDOM.....	287
Name—Population—Windom as Viewed in 1893—First Events—Commercial Interests, 1872 and 1882—Postoffice—Municipal History—Waterworks—Library—Ferry—First Elevator—Ruse Hospital—Industries—Removal of an Old Landmark—The Old "Lock-up"—Commercial Interests in 1916—Commercial Clubs—The Tourist Club—Woman's Literary Club—Windom Pioneers—Windom's Greatest Fire.	
CHAPTER XVIII—REMINISCENCES.....	305
Pioneer Days in Great Bend—Blizzard of 1873.	
CHAPTER XIX—MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS AND INCIDENTS.....	311
Immigration Association—Population Statistics—Nationality of Population—Village Plats—Platted Cemeteries—Altitudes—Market Quotations—Grasshopper Plague—Storm of 1873—The Cyclones of 1903 and 1908—Snow Storm of 1881—Hay Burned—A Prairie Blizzard of 1873—Five-Year Grasshopper Scourge—Burning Hay for Fuel—Railroad Wreck at Windom—Mountain Lake Wreck—"The Old Ox Team."	

---

## WATONWAN COUNTY

CHAPTER I—GEOLOGY OF WATONWAN COUNTY.....	327
Situation—Area—Surface Features—Natural Drainage—Topography—Elevations—Soil—Timber—Geological Structure—Lakes—Boulders and Gravel—Building Stone—Peat.	
CHAPTER II—INDIAN HISTORY AND TREATIES.....	334
Treaty of Traverse des Sioux—Indian Characters—Captivity of Benedict Juni—Causes Leading to the Indian Massacre of 1862—First Act of Vio-	

## CONTENTS.

lence—Reminiscences of the Little Crow Uprising—The Government Not Guiltless—Punishment of the Sioux—Pensioners of the Sioux Uprising—Story of the New Ulm Massacre—Indians' Last Raid in This Section—Indians and Their Peculiar Customs—The Versatile Indian—Incidents Connected With the Indian War.

### CHAPTER III—THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS..... 376 .

The Pioneer Band—Early Deeds and Land Transfers—Timber Claims—School Lands—Early Miscellaneous Deeds—Settlement Notes—First Settlers in the County.

### CHAPTER IV—ORGANIZATION AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT..... 381

Creation and Organization—Name—Area—County Commissioners' Proceedings—First Militia Officers—Troubles of a Treasurer—County Finances, 1870—County Expenses, 1877—Aid to Farmers Who Suffered From the Grasshopper Scourge—Relocating the County Seat—County Official Paper—Salaries and Bonds of County Officers, 1884—Court House History—Jail—Caring for the Poor—County Finances, 1897 and 1915—Assessed Valuation, 1880, 1890 and 1916—Number of Buildings Assessed in 1894—Treasury Burglarized—Drainage.

### CHAPTER V—COUNTY AND STATE REPRESENTATION..... 410

Presidential Vote—State Senators—State Representatives—County Commissioners—County Auditors—County Treasurers—Registers of Deeds—Sheriffs—Clerks of the District Court—County Attorneys—Court Commissioners—Coroners—Probate Judges—School Examiners and County Superintendent—County Surveyors.

### CHAPTER VI—TOWNSHIPS OF WATONWAN COUNTY..... 419

Townships of Adrian, Antrim, Butterfield, Fieldon, Long Lake, Madelia, Nelson, Odin, Riverside, Rosendale, South Branch, St. James—Villages of Darfur, Lewisville, Butterfield, Ormsby, Madelia, Odin, LaSalle and Grogan.

### CHAPTER VII—CITY OF ST. JAMES..... 467

Name—Platted—Early Conditions—First Events—Winter of 1870-1—St. James in 1885-6—Municipal History—Fire Department—Societies—Commercial Club—Public Library—Business Men's Association—Sanitarium—Long Lake Park—Industries—Commercial Interests, 1916—Miscellaneous Items.

### CHAPTER VIII—CHURCHES..... 480

Methodist Episcopal Churches—Evangelical Lutheran Churches—Presbyterian Churches—Christian Church—Church of Christ—Episcopal Churches—Norwegian Lutheran Churches—Swedish Lutheran Churches—Mennonite Churches—Baptist Churches—Catholic Churches.

### CHAPTER IX—EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS..... 503

Present School System of the State—School Lands—Schools of 1875—First Schools in Watonwan County—St. James Public Schools—Rosendale Township Schools and the Schools at Odin, Darfur, Lewisville, Ormsby and Butter-



## CONTENTS.

field—Present School Statistics—High and Graded Schools—School House Locations—Early School Scandal.	
CHAPTER X—THE BENCH AND BAR.....	513
Requirements for Admission to Practice Law in Minnesota—List of Attorneys in This County—Present Members of the Bar.	
CHAPTER XI—PHYSICIANS OF THE COUNTY.....	516
Hardships and Poor Recompense of Early Doctors—List of Registered Physicians—Other Doctors Who Have Practiced in the County—Watonwan County Medical Society—Early Physicians' Fees.	
CHAPTER XII—NEWSPAPERS.....	521
Power of the Press—First Paper in the County—Papers, Past and Present, at Madelia, St. James, Butterfield.	
CHAPTER XIII—BANKS AND BANKING.....	525
Character of Banks—First Bank in Watonwan County—Banks at Madelia, St. James, Odin, Lewisville, Butterfield, Ormsby, LaSalle and Darfur.	
CHAPTER XIV—FRATERNAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS.....	532
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons—Order of the Eastern Star—Independent Order of Odd Fellows—Daughters of Rebekah—Knights of Pythias—Modern Woodmen of America—Royal Neighbors of America—Modern Brotherhood of America—Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen—Catholic Order of Foresters—Grand Army of the Republic.	
CHAPTER XV—RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.....	541
Transformation in Local Conditions Through Advent of Railroads—Brief Description of the Various Railroads Which Have Entered Watonwan County.	
CHAPTER XVI—MILITARY HISTORY.....	546
Many Veterans of the Civil War in This County—The Spanish-American War.	
CHAPTER XVII—AGRICULTURE, STOCK-RAISING, ETC. ....	548
Watonwan, Purely an Agricultural District—Creameries—Stock Farms—Improvement in Stock-raising Methods—Farm Names—The Great Elgin Colony—County Fair Societies—An Early Horse and Cattle Fair—Dairy Statistics—Creamery Companies.	
CHAPTER XVIII—MURDERS AND OUTRAGES.....	556
Murder of Lais Johnson—The Goblinski Quadruple Murder—Killing of Leo Jacobson—Suicide—The Younger Brothers and the Northfield Bank Robbery.	
CHAPTER XIX—SIDELIGHTS.....	570
Population of the County—Population by Townships—Altitudes of the	

CONTENTS.

County—Village Plattings—Spelling School in Pioneer Days—Old Settlers' Reunion at Madelia, 1875—"Song for the Old Settlers"—Great Storms—Advantages of Watonwan County—Court House Corner-stone Laying—Growth of Watonwan County—Grasshoppers—Birds and Wild Animals.

CHAPTER XX—REMINISCENCES----- 583

Interesting Review of Early Events and Conditions by Alexander Swanson—The First House in Adrian Township—Transportation Troubles—Privations of Pioneers—How the Children Helped—Tribute to Pioneer Heroes—The Grasshopper Plague—Lack of Amusements in Early Days—Early Market Prices—Tools and Machinery.

CHAPTER XXI—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS----- 392

Market Quotations—Anti-Horse Thief Association—The Prohibition Question—Local Option Vote in 1915—Russian Thistle Day.



# HISTORICAL INDEX

## VOLUME I

### COTTONWOOD COUNTY

#### A

Agricultural Interests .....	194
Agricultural Societies .....	198
Allen, Silas D. ....	221
Altitudes in the County .....	63
Altitudes in the State .....	49
Amboy Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	117
Character of Citizens .....	118
Drainage .....	59
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Land Entries .....	118
Organization .....	118
Population .....	117, 312
Settlement .....	118
Topography .....	62
Amo Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Groves .....	123
Lakes .....	60
Land Entries .....	123
Location .....	122
Name Changed .....	123
Organization .....	123
Peat .....	77
Population .....	122, 312
Settlers .....	123
Topography .....	62
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons	205

Ancient Order of United Workmen	210
Ann Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	126
Drainage .....	59
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Groves .....	127
Land Entries .....	127
Organization .....	127
Population .....	127, 312
Settlement .....	127
Topography .....	62
Area of the County .....	59
Area of the State .....	47
Assessed Valuation of County .....	96
Attorneys .....	241
Auditors, County .....	111

#### B

Banks .....	267
Baptist Churches .....	230
Barley .....	202
Bench and Bar .....	241
Benevolent Societies .....	205
Bingham Lake—	
Altitude .....	63
Assessed Valuation .....	97
Banks .....	274, 276
Business Interests .....	156
Churches .....	228
Creamery .....	198
Location .....	154
Lodges .....	213

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

Bingham Lake—Cont.	
Pioneer Business Men.....	155
Platted .....	313
Population .....	312
Postoffice .....	154
Schools .....	247
Tile Factory .....	155
Blizzard of 1873.....	305
Boulders .....	76
Boundaries of County .....	91

## C

Carson Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Lakes .....	60
Land Entries .....	130
Land Values .....	130
Location .....	130
Organization .....	130
Population .....	130, 312
Settlement .....	130
Topography .....	62
Catholic Churches .....	238
Cattle .....	202
Cattle Breeding .....	196
Cemetery Plats .....	313
Chronological History of Minnesota	50
Churches .....	226
Climate of Minnesota.....	49
Commissioners, County .....	112
Commissioners' Districts, First.....	97
Constitution of State.....	39
Corn .....	202
County Auditors .....	111
County Commissioners .....	112
County Commissioners' Proceedings	97
County Finances, 1916 .....	107
County Government .....	93
County Offices .....	103
County Officers' Fees, 1909.....	107
County Officials, First .....	95
County Officials, 1916.....	108
County Representation .....	110
County Roads .....	108
County-seat Contests .....	94
County Seats .....	103

County Superintendents' Salaries....	260
County Treasurers .....	111
Court, First Term of.....	95
Court House History .....	102
Court Officers, 1916.....	243
Creameries .....	197, 202, 203, 204
Creation of County .....	90
Cyclones .....	316

## D

Dairy Interests .....	197, 202, 203, 204
Dale Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Lakes .....	60, 103
Land Entries .....	134
Location .....	133
Organization .....	134
Population .....	134, 312
Settlement .....	134
Topography .....	62
Danish Baptist Church.....	232
Daughters of Norway .....	215
Daughters of Rebekah.....	209
Delft—	
Bank .....	275
Fire .....	133
Location .....	130, 133
Platted .....	133, 313
Delton Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	137
Farm Land .....	137
Land Entries .....	137
Organization .....	137
Population .....	137, 312
Settlement .....	137
Topography .....	62
District Appointments, First.....	98
Diversified Farming Interests.....	46
Doctors .....	218
Dowie Zionists .....	235
Drainage, Natural .....	59
Drift, Glacial .....	71
"Dutch Charlie".....	79, 145

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## E

Early School Districts.....	245
Eastern Star, Order of the.....	206
Education .....	244
Educational Statistics .....	261
Episcopal Church .....	239
Evangelical Lutheran Churches.....	233

## F

Fair Associations .....	198
Farm Animals .....	202
Farm Names .....	200
Farm Statistics .....	202
Farming Interests, Diversified.....	46
Farming Methods .....	194
First Physicians .....	218
Fraternal Orders .....	205

## G

Geography of the State.....	47
Geology of the County.....	59
Georgetown Township .....	123
German Evan. Luth. Trinity Church	235
Germantown Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	114
Drainage .....	59
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Land Entries .....	115
Natural Features .....	114
Organization .....	115
Population .....	115, 312
Settlement .....	115
Soil .....	114
Topography .....	62
Glacial Drift .....	71
Grains, Production of .....	202
Grand Army of the Republic.....	280
Granges .....	217
Grant and Wilson Voters.....	284
Grasshopper Appropriations .....	101
Grasshopper Plague.....	314, 323
Great Bend School House.....	244, 265
Great Bend Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114

## Great Bend Township—Cont.

Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	140
Land Entries .....	141
Organization .....	140
Peat .....	77
Pioneer Days .....	305
Poor Farm .....	105
Population .....	140, 312
Schools .....	244
Settlement .....	141
Topography .....	62
Growth of the State.....	44

## H

Hardships of a Mail Carrier.....	88
Hay .....	202
Hay Burned .....	321
Highwater Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	145
Drainage .....	59
"Dutch Charlie" .....	145
Lakes .....	60
Land Entries .....	146
Natural Features .....	145
Organization .....	146
Population .....	146, 312
Settlement .....	146
Topography .....	62
Horse Breeding .....	195
Horses .....	202

## I

Immigration Association .....	311
Independent Order of Odd Fellows..	208
Indian Hunters, Trouble with.....	37
Indian Treaties .....	33
Indian Unrest .....	40

## J

Jail .....	104
Jeffers—	
Assessed Valuation .....	97
Banks .....	270, 275
Business Interests .....	121



# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## Jeffers—Cont.

Churches .....	229, 234, 239
Early Growth .....	119
Fires .....	120
Creamery .....	121
Location .....	119, 121
Lodges .....	212, 214
Municipal History .....	120
Newspapers .....	223
Officials .....	120
Platted .....	313
Population .....	312
Postoffice .....	120
Schools .....	248

## K

Knights of Columbus.....	216
--------------------------	-----

## L

Lakes of Minnesota .....	48
Lakes of the County.....	60, 90
Lakeside Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	150
Lakes .....	60, 150
Land Entries .....	150
Organization .....	150
Peat .....	150, 312
Schools .....	245
Settlement .....	245
Topography .....	62
Lawyers .....	241
Live Stock Statistics.....	202
Lodges .....	205
Lutheran Churches .....	236

## M

Market Quotations .....	314
Masonic Order .....	205
Massacre of 1862.....	42
Medical Profession .....	218
Mennonite Church .....	236
Methodist Episcopal Churches.....	227
Midway Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114

## Midway Township—Cont.

Assessed Valuation .....	96
Land Entries .....	157
Location .....	156
Population .....	157, 312
Schools .....	246
Settlement .....	157
Topography .....	62
Military Matters .....	280
Military Record of State.....	46
Miscellaneous Topics .....	311
Mission Band .....	233
Modern Brotherhood of America.....	214
Modern Woodmen of America.....	211
Moraines .....	74
Mountain Lake—	
Altitude .....	63
Assessed Valuation .....	97
Banks .....	272, 275
Business Interests .....	167
Business Men .....	159
Churches .....	229, 235, 236
Commercial Club .....	161
Early Growth .....	159
Fire Department .....	162
Fires .....	163
Grange .....	217
Industries .....	162
Lighting System .....	162
Lodges .....	210, 212, 217
Mennonite Hospital .....	161
Municipal History .....	160
Name .....	159
Newspapers .....	225
Officials .....	160
Peat .....	76
Physicians .....	160
Platted .....	159, 313
Population .....	312
Postoffice .....	160
Schools .....	246, 258
Settlement .....	160
Railroad Wreck .....	326
Mountain Lake Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	164
Land Entries .....	164
Location .....	163

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## Mountain Lake Township—Cont.

Name .....	163
Organization .....	164
Population .....	164, 312
Schools .....	245
Settlement .....	164
Soil .....	163
Topography .....	62

## N

Name of the State .....	47
Nationality of Population .....	312
Natural Drainage .....	59
Newspapers .....	223
Norwegian Evan. Luth. Church .....	233
Norwegian United Evan. Luth. Ch. ....	235

## O

Oats .....	202
Odd Fellows .....	208
Officials from the County .....	110
Old Settlers' Association .....	83
Order of the Eastern Star .....	206
Organization of County .....	90, 95

## P

Patrons of Husbandry .....	217
Peat .....	76
Physicians .....	218
Pioneer Settlement .....	79
Pioneers, Struggles of .....	80
Plats .....	313
Poor, Caring for the .....	105
Population of the State .....	46
Population Statistics .....	311
Potatoes .....	202
Poultry Show .....	195
Prairie Blizzard .....	321
Prentiss, William .....	264
Presbyterian Churches .....	229
Presidential Vote .....	110
Press, the .....	223
Probate Judges .....	112

## R

Railroad Bonds .....	39
Railroad Wrecks .....	325

Railroads .....	277
Rebekahs .....	209
Registers of Deeds .....	112
Related State History .....	33
Religious Societies .....	226
Reminiscences .....	305
Representatives .....	111
Rivers of the County .....	59
Rivers of the State .....	48
Roads .....	108
Rose Hill Township—	

Altitude .....	63
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	168
Churches .....	236
Drainage .....	59
Lakes .....	60, 168
Land Entries .....	169
Location .....	168
Organization .....	169
Population .....	169, 312
Settlement .....	169
Topography .....	62

Royal Arch Masons .....	206
Royal Neighbors of America .....	213
Rural School Commencements .....	260
Russian Thistle .....	106
Rye .....	202

## S

Scandinavian Evan. Luth. Church .....	235
School Districts .....	245
School House, First in County .....	247
School Lands .....	261
School Statistics .....	261
Schools .....	244
Secret Societies .....	205
Selma Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Land Entries .....	171
Location .....	170
Organization .....	170
Population .....	170, 312
Settlement .....	171
Topography .....	62
Senators, State .....	110

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

Sheep .....	202
Sheriffs .....	112
Sioux Indians, Murders by.....	43
Situation of the County.....	59
Soil .....	64, 90
Soldiers' Monument .....	281
Sons of Norway.....	215
Southbrook Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	176
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Lakes .....	61
Land Entries .....	176
Location .....	176
Natural Features .....	176
Organization .....	176
Peat .....	78
Population .....	176, 312
Settlement .....	176
Topography .....	62
Spanish-American War .....	286
Springfield Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Grasshopper Loss .....	315
Land Entries .....	173
Location .....	172
Natural Features .....	172
Organization .....	173
Peat .....	78
Population .....	173, 312
Schools .....	245
Settlement .....	173
Topography .....	63
State Constitution .....	39
State Representatives .....	111
State Roads .....	108
State Senators .....	110
Stock Farms .....	195
"Stolen" Townships .....	91
Storden—	
Banks .....	271, 275
Business Interests .....	183
Business Men, Early.....	183
Creamery .....	198
First Events .....	182
Land Values .....	183

Storden—Cont.	
Location .....	182
Lodges .....	212
Platted .....	182, 313
Postoffice .....	183
Schools .....	247
Storden Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Boundaries .....	179
Drainage .....	59
Lakes .....	60
Land Entries .....	180
Location .....	179
Natural Features .....	180
Organization .....	180
Population .....	180, 312
Settlement .....	180
Topography .....	62
Storm of 1873.....	316
Swine .....	202

## T

Tax Levy, 1916-17.....	107
Taxes in 1877.....	101
Teachers, Early School.....	246
Territorial Government .....	34
"The Old Ox Team".....	326
Timber .....	64, 65
Topography of the County.....	61
Town-site Speculation .....	38
Townships of the County.....	114
Transportation .....	277
Traverse des Sioux Treaty.....	35
Treasurers, County .....	111
Treaties with Indians.....	33
Tree Premiums .....	101
Trees .....	65

## U

United Workmen, Order of .....	210
--------------------------------	-----

## V

Village Plats .....	313
---------------------	-----



# HISTORICAL INDEX.

W	
Water-falls .....	69
"We Are Growing Old, John".....	283
Westbrook—	
Assessed Valuation .....	97, 193
Banks .....	273, 276
Beginning of .....	187
Business Interests .....	191
Churches .....	231, 233, 236, 238
Early Business Men .....	187
Fair, Street .....	191
Improvements .....	190
Incorporation .....	189
Location .....	193
Lodges.....	207, 211, 213, 214
Newspapers .....	223
Officials, First .....	189
Officials, Present .....	191
Old Settlement .....	187
Park .....	193
Platted .....	187, 313
Population .....	312
Postoffice .....	191
Public Improvements .....	191
Railroad Interests .....	188, 190
Schools .....	248
Street Fairs .....	191
Waterworks .....	190
Westbrook Township—	
Altitude .....	64
Area .....	114
Assessed Valuation .....	96
Drainage .....	59
Lakes .....	60, 184
Land Entries .....	185
Location .....	184
Natural Features .....	184
Organization .....	185
Population .....	184, 312
Schools .....	245
Settlement .....	185
Topography .....	62

Wheat .....	202
Windom—	
Altitude .....	63, 314
Assessed Valuation .....	97
Banks .....	267, 275
Business Interests, 1872.....	290
Business Interests, 1882.....	290
Business Interests, 1916 .....	299
Lodges.....	205, 208, 211, 213, 215, 280
Churches.....	227, 220, 230, 233, 235, 238, 239
Commercial Clubs .....	301
County Seat .....	287
Creamery .....	203
Fair Grounds .....	199
Ferry .....	295
Fires .....	302
First Buildings .....	287
First Events .....	289
Hospital .....	296
In 1893 .....	287
Industries .....	296
Library .....	294
Lodges.....	205, 208, 211, 213, 215, 280
Municipal History .....	292
Name .....	297
Newspapers .....	223
Physicians .....	218
Pioneers .....	302
Platted .....	313
Population .....	287, 312
Postoffice .....	291
Poultry Show .....	195
Railroad Wreck .....	325
Schools .....	250
Situation .....	90
Tourist Club .....	301
Waterworks .....	293
Woman's Literary Club.....	302
Winter of 1872-3 .....	81
Woman's Relief Corps .....	281
Woodmen of America, Modern.....	211

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## WATONWAN COUNTY

### A

Adrian Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 572
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	419
Buildings Assessed, 1894.....	406
Created .....	389
Lakes .....	419
Land Entries .....	420
Location .....	419
Organization .....	419
Population .....	570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	420
Vote on Bond Issue.....	403
Agricultural Societies .....	551
Agriculture .....	548
Aid to Farmers.....	392
Altitudes .....	571
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons	532
Anti-Horse Thief Association.....	592
Antrim Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 571
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	423
Buildings Assessed, 1894.....	406
Creation of .....	386
Lakes .....	328
Land Entries .....	423
Location .....	423
Name .....	423
Organization .....	423
Population .....	423, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	423
Vote on Bond Issue.....	403
Area of the County.....	327, 381
Assessed Valuation Rates, 1875.....	390
Assessed Valuations .....	406
Attorneys .....	513
Auditors, County .....	414

### B

Banks .....	525
Baptist Churches .....	492
Bench and Bar .....	513

Benevolent Societies .....	532
Birds .....	582
Bond Issues .....	402
Boulders .....	332
Bounty to Soldiers .....	385
Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.....	538
Building Stone .....	333
Buildings Assessed in 1894.....	406
Butterfield—	
Altitude .....	328, 571
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	529
Business Interests .....	428
Churches .....	483, 491
Commercial Club .....	429
Fires .....	429
Improvements .....	429
Incorporation .....	429
Lodges .....	535
Municipal History .....	429
Newspapers .....	524
Officials, First .....	429
Platted .....	428, 572
Population .....	428
Postoffice .....	428
Presidents of .....	429
Schools .....	509
Vote on Bond Issue.....	403
Butterfield Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 572
Area .....	427
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Buildings Assessed, 1894.....	406
Churches .....	487, 491
Creation of .....	389
Land Entries .....	427
Location .....	426
Organization .....	427
Population .....	427, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	427
Vote on Bond Issue.....	403

### C

Captivity of Benedict Juni.....	336
Catholic Churches .....	493

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

Catholic Order of Foresters.....	539
Christian Church .....	486
Church of Christ .....	486
Churches .....	480
Clerks of the District Court.....	415
Commissioners, County, List of....	412
Coroners .....	416
County Attorneys .....	416
County Auditors .....	414
County Commissioners, List of....	412
County Commissioners, Proceedings	381
County Fairs .....	551
County Finances, 1868.....	386
County Finances, 1870.....	388
County Finances, 1874.....	390
County Finances, 1897.....	404
County Finances, 1915.....	405
County Government .....	381
County Medical Society.....	519
County Officers' Salaries and Bonds	398
County Officials, First .....	381
County Representation .....	410
County Seat, Locating the.....	394
County Superintendents .....	417
County Surveyors .....	417
County Treasurers .....	414
County Treasury Robbed.....	407
Court Commissioners .....	416
Court House Corner-stone Laying..	577
Court House History .....	399
Creameries .....	548, 553
Customs of Indians.....	370

## D

Dairy Statistics .....	553
Darfur—	
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Bank .....	531
Business Interests .....	422
Churches .....	484, 491
Improvements .....	422
Incorporation .....	422
Officials, First .....	422
Platted .....	422, 572
President of .....	422
Schools .....	508
Daughters of Rebekah .....	534
Deeds, Early .....	376
Dexter Township .....	389

Doctors .....	516
Doctors' Fees .....	520
Dodd, Captain, Death of.....	359
Drainage .....	407
Drainage of the County.....	327
Drewsville Township .....	388
Drift .....	330

## E

Early Conditions .....	436
Early Transportation Troubles....	584
Eastern Star, Order of.....	533
Echols .....	572
Education .....	503
Elgin Colony .....	551
Episcopal Church .....	487
Evangelical Lutheran Churches....	482
Execution of Indian Murders.....	364

## F

Farm Names .....	550
Farmers Mutual Fire Ins. Co.....	451
Farming Interests .....	548
Ferry-boat Fees .....	388
Fieldon Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 571
Area .....	430
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Buildings Assessed, 1894.....	406
Creation of .....	386
Lakes .....	328
Land Entries .....	430
Organization .....	430
Population .....	430, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	430
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
First County Officers .....	381
First House, the .....	583
First Settlements .....	376, 380
Foresters, Catholic Order of .....	539
Fraternal Orders .....	532

## G

Geology .....	327
Glacial Drift .....	330
Graded Schools .....	509



# HISTORICAL INDEX.

Grand Army of the Republic .....	539
Grasshopper Plague .....	580, 589
Grasshopper Relief .....	392
Gravel .....	332
Grogan .....	462, 572
Growth of Watonwan County.....	579

## H

High Schools .....	509
House, the First .....	583

## I

Independent Order of Odd Fellows..	533
Indian Character .....	334
Indian History .....	334
Indian Massacre of 1862, Causes of	344
Indian Traders, Schemes of .....	347
Indian Treaties .....	334
Indian Violence .....	351
Indians, Last Raid of .....	370
Indians, Their Peculiar Customs....	370

## J

Jail .....	403
Juni, Benedict, Captivity of.....	336

## K

Knights of Pythias .....	534
--------------------------	-----

## L

Lakes .....	327, 331
Land Transfers, Early .....	376
LaSalle—	
Bank .....	529
Business Interests .....	459
Lodge .....	537
Platted .....	459, 572
Postoffice .....	460
Lawyers .....	513
Lewisville—	
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	529
Business Interests .....	426
Churches .....	486
Improvements .....	425
Incorporation .....	425

## Lewisville—Cont.

Lawyers .....	515
Location .....	425
Lodges .....	536
Officials, First .....	425
Platted .....	425, 572
Population .....	426
Postoffice .....	425
Presidents of .....	425
Schools .....	508
Libraries .....	504
Little Crow Uprising .....	353
Local Option Vote, 1915.....	594
Lodges .....	532
Long Lake Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 572
Area .....	431
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	431
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Churches .....	488, 490
Creation of .....	386
Indian Atrocities .....	433
Johnson Murder .....	556
Lakes .....	328, 431
Land Entries .....	432
Norwegian Settlement .....	437
Organization .....	431
Population .....	431, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	432
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403

## M

### Madelia—

Altitude .....	328, 571
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	525
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Business Interests, 1885 .....	447
Business Interests, 1916 .....	449
Business Men's Association.....	451
Churches.....	480, 483, 485, 486, 487, 492
Commercial Club .....	450
County Seat .....	394
Creamery .....	553
Early Business Interests .....	444
Fires .....	449
Incorporation .....	448

# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## Madelia—Cont.

Indian Scare .....	444
Lawyers .....	515
Location .....	443
Lodges .....533, 535, 536,	539
Mill .....	448
Municipal History .....	448
Name .....	443
Newspapers .....	521
Officials .....	448
Platted .....	443, 572
Population .....	570
Postoffice .....	444
Schools .....	505
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403

## Madelia Township—

Altitude .....	329, 571
Area .....	439
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Buildings Assessed, 1894.....	406
Lakes .....	327, 440
Land Entries .....	440
Location .....	439
Population .....	440, 570
Railroad Interests .....	440
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	440
Streams .....	440
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403

Markets, Early .....	591, 592
Masonic Order .....	532
Massacre at New Ulm .....	369
Medical History .....	516
Medical Society .....	519
Mennonite Churches .....	491
Methodist Episcopal Churches.....	480
Military History .....	546
Militia, First Officers .....	384
Modern Brotherhood of America....	537
Modern Woodmen of America.....	535
Murders .....	556

## N

Name of the County .....	381
Nationality of Population .....	571
Natural Drainage .....	327
Nelson Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 572
Area .....	451

## Nelson Township—Cont.

Assessed Valuation .....	406
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Land Entries .....	452
Location .....	451
Name .....	452
Organization .....	452
Population .....	451, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	452
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
New Ulm, Defense of .....	355
New Ulm Massacre .....	369
Newspapers .....	521
North Branch Township .....	389
Northfield Bank Robbery .....	560
Norwegian Lutheran Churches.....	487
Norwegian Settlers .....	437

## O

Odd Fellows .....	533
Odin—	
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	528
Business Interests .....	457
Creamery .....	457
Improvements .....	456
Location .....	456
Lodges .....	537
Officials .....	456
Platted .....	456, 572
Population .....	456
Postoffice .....	457
Schools .....	508

## Odin Township—

Altitude .....	329, 572
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	453
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Creation of .....	389
Lakes .....	328, 453
Land Entries .....	454
Location .....	453
Organization .....	453
Population .....	453, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	454
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
Wild Birds .....	455

## HISTORICAL INDEX.

Officials, First County .....	381
Old Settlers' Reunion .....	573
Order of the Eastern Star .....	533
Organization of the County .....	381
Ormsby—	
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	529
Business Interests .....	439
Fire Protection .....	439
Location .....	439
Municipal History .....	439
Name .....	439
Officials, First .....	439
Platted .....	439, 572
Presidents of .....	439
Schools .....	508
Outrages .....	556

### P

Peat .....	333
Pensioners of Sioux Uprising.....	369
Physicians .....	516
Pioneer Days, Story of .....	461
Pioneer Heroes .....	588
Pioneers, Privations of .....	586
Plattings .....	572
Poor, Care for the .....	403
Population of the County .....	570
Presbyterian Churches .....	485
Presidential Vote .....	410
Press, the .....	521
Prices, Early Market .....	592
Privations of Pioneers .....	586
Probate Judges .....	416
Prohibition Candidates .....	418
Prohibition Question .....	593

### R

Railroads .....	541
Rebekahs .....	534
Registers of Deeds .....	415
Religious Societies .....	480
Reminiscences .....	583
Representatives .....	411
Riverdale Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 571
Area .....	458
Assessed Valuation .....	406

Riverdale Township—Cont.	
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Creation of .....	388
Land Entries .....	458
Location .....	458
Organization .....	458
Population .....	458, 570
Railroad Interests .....	458
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	458
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
Rivers .....	327
Rosendale Township—	
Altitude .....	329, 572
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Churches .....	488
Creation of .....	389
Lakes .....	460
Location .....	460
Organization .....	460
Pioneer Days .....	461
Population .....	460, 570
Railroad Interests .....	460
Schools .....	507, 510
Settlement .....	461
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
Royal Neighbors of America .....	536
Russian Thistle .....	594

### S

St. James—	
Altitude .....	328, 571
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Banks .....	525
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Business Interests, 1870 .....	468
Business Interests, 1885 .....	468
Business Interests, 1916 .....	477
Business Men's Association .....	473
Churches.....	480, 485, 487, 489, 492
Commercial Club .....	472
County Seat .....	396
Creamery .....	555
Fire Department .....	471
First Events .....	468
First Settlers .....	468
First Store .....	380
Home-coming .....	478



# HISTORICAL INDEX.

## St. James—Cont.

Horse and Cattle Fair .....	552
Hospital .....	474
Improvements .....	470
Incorporation .....	470
Industries .....	475, 479
Lawyers .....	515
Library .....	473
Lodges.....	472, 532, 534, 535, 537, 539
Municipal History .....	470
Name .....	467
Newspapers .....	522
Officials, First .....	470
Officials, Present .....	470
Park .....	474
Platted .....	467, 572
Population .....	570
Railroad Interests .....	467, 543
Sanitarium .....	474
Schools .....	505
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403

## St. James Township—

Altitude .....	329, 572
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	464
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Creation of .....	388
Lakes .....	328, 464
Land Entries .....	465
Location .....	464
Organization .....	464
Pioneers .....	464
Population .....	464, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	464
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
School Examiners .....	417
School Lands .....	379, 504
School Statistics .....	509
Schools .....	503
Schools in 1875 .....	505
Secret Societies .....	532
Senators, State .....	411
Settlements, First .....	376, 380
Sheriffs .....	415
Sioux, Punishment of the .....	362
Situation of the County.....	327, 381
Soil .....	329
Soldiers' Bounty .....	385
Soldiers Lodge .....	350

## "Song for the Old Settlers".....

## South Branch Township—

Altitude .....	329, 572
Assessed Valuation .....	406
Boundaries .....	462
Buildings Assessed, 1894 .....	406
Churches .....	484
Creation of .....	388
Goblinski Murder .....	557
Lakes .....	463
Land Entries .....	463
Location .....	462
Organization .....	463
Population .....	463, 570
School Houses .....	510
Settlement .....	463
Vote on Bond Issue .....	403
Spanish-American War .....	547
Spelling School .....	573
Springfield Township .....	389
State Representatives .....	411
State Senators .....	411
Stock Raising .....	548
Storms .....	576
Streams .....	327
Surface of the County .....	327
Surveyors, County .....	417
Swedish Lutheran Churches .....	489

## T

Timber .....	329
Timber Claims .....	376
Topography .....	328
Townships of the County .....	419
Traverse des Sioux, Treaty of.....	334
Treasurers, County .....	414
Treaties with Indians .....	334

## V

Village Platting .....	572
------------------------	-----

## W

Wakefield Township .....	386
Wild Animals .....	582
Woman's Relief Corps .....	540
Woodmen of America, Modern.....	535

## Y

York Township .....	386
Younger Brothers .....	560



# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

## VOLUME II

### A

Abel, Frederick .....	449
Adrian, John .....	189
Albrecht, Richard .....	311
Anderson, Albert .....	180
Anderson, Amund .....	345
Anderson, Andrew H. ....	395
Anderson, Bertel A. ....	267
Anderson, C. H. ....	171
Anderson, Carl C., D. V. S. ....	46
Anderson, Charles .....	483
Anderson, Christian .....	367
Anderson, John A. ....	399
Anderson, Nels .....	55
Anderson, Ole .....	237
Anton, Frank T. ....	105
Armstrong, Moses K. ....	275
Arneson, Theodore J. ....	99

### B

Balzer, Frank .....	318
Balzer, Jacob J. ....	144
Balzer, Solomon .....	95
Beise, Henry C., D. M. D. ....	146
Biel, Albert F. ....	390
Bill, James J. ....	316
Bisbee, John .....	400
Bishop, Carl R. ....	414
Bjoin, O. A. ....	429
Bolin, Amel .....	188
Bolin, Charles W. ....	254
Bondhus, Thomas .....	155
Bonin, Ferdinand .....	370
Braathun, C. O. ....	219
Bradley, George P. ....	174
Brogger, Eivind .....	204

Brogger, Jacob .....	283
Brown, John A. ....	440
Burley, Fred .....	233
Burton, William C. ....	383

### C

Cadwell, Mason N. ....	62
Carpenter, Frederick J. ....	107
Cassem, T. P. ....	456
Christensen, Fred T. ....	183
Christenson, Ole L. ....	387
Churchill, Leroy C. ....	369
Clark, Willis J. ....	70
Clement, Berton F. ....	200
Collins, Thomas C. ....	33
Comnick, Gottlieb .....	249
Cook, William A. ....	422
Cooley, Charles H. ....	448
Crowley, Charley T. ....	123
Curtis, Will .....	64

### D

Dammann, C. W. ....	366
Davies, James T. ....	158
Davies, Joseph .....	290
DeGonda, Anthony P. ....	380
Dempsey, Gerald .....	426
Dewar, Frank .....	375
Dewar, John, Sr. ....	438
DeWolf, Milo T. ....	43
Doerksen, Jacob P. ....	470
Drake, George .....	282
Dryden, T. N. ....	53
Dummett, William H. ....	121
Dyer, Francis M. ....	328



# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

## E

Eichstad, Emil H. ....	455
Ellingsberg, Anton .....	135
Engeswick, John A. ....	464
Englin, John S. ....	285
Englin, Theo. ....	225
Englund, A. W. ....	327
Erickson, Elof ....	346
Erickson, Nils ....	365
Ewert, David ....	45

## F

Fast, Herman J. ....	187
Fast, Jacob J. ....	320
Fast, John H. ....	356
Fast, Peter P. ....	427
Fering, Severt J. ....	67
Fester, E. O. ....	358
Fisch, Michael L. ....	119
Flaig, Arthur J. ....	293
Flitter, H. C. ....	403
Flogstad, Martin H. ....	245
Flogstad, Paul ....	228
Foss, Julius E. ....	201
Foss Mercantile Company .....	201
Foss, William H. ....	201
Franz, Martin ....	317
Franz, Peter J. ....	211
Fredrickson, August ....	353
Friesen, Abraham B. ....	140
Fuller, Walter A. ....	185

## G

Gall, Frank ....	222
Gertner, Gottlieb ....	203
Gibbs, Edson A. ....	461
Gilbertson, Gustav E. ....	71
Gillam, Charles W. ....	88
Gillis, Rev. Benjamin C. ....	209
Gjertson, John ....	194
Glasier, Jacob M. ....	347
Goertzen, Cornelius ....	354
Goosen, Peter F. ....	460
Graff, Adolph ....	465
Grant, George W. ....	192
Grant, John G. ....	360
Grunenwald, Albert ....	361
Gushman, Leo A. ....	118

Gustafson, Charles A. ....	310
Gustafson, John F. ....	176

## H

Hage, Siver ....	481
Haislet, Herman W. ....	125
Hale, Walter M. ....	137
Halvorsen, Ole A. ....	167
Hammerstad, Ole ....	73
Hammond, Milton H. ....	42
Hammond, Hon. Winfield S. ....	35
Hamre, Andrew C. ....	394
Hansen, Jens C. ....	260
Hansen, Severt ....	74
Hanson, Andrew M. ....	51
Hanson, Henry E. ....	120
Hanson, Jens ....	195
Harbitz, Monrad ....	326
Harper, Arthur ....	251
Hartmann, Rev. M. K. ....	232
Hasenheyer, Gottlieb ....	132
Haugen, Hans A. ....	453
Haycraft, Emery ....	205
Hedquist, Olaf ....	58
Heggerston, E. E. ....	166
Henderson, John ....	128
Henderson, Martin ....	388
Hengtgen, Jacob ....	131
Heppner, John ....	475
Hiebert, Jacob G. ....	86
Hofstad, Rudolf ....	350
Hofstrom, Charles O. ....	371
Hohenstem, Otto E. ....	76
Holen, Soren ....	208
Holte, Even O. ....	138
Hovden, Ben ....	395
Hoyt, Ole C. ....	351
Huffman, John C. ....	450
Hunter, William W. ....	304

## I

Iverson, Iver O. ....	234
-----------------------	-----

## J

Jackson, Samuel ....	431
Jacobsen, Lars O. ....	469
Jacobson, Abraham ....	256

# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Jacobson, Gunder .....	436
Janzen, Abraham .....	54
Janzen, David C. ....	480
Jencks, Perry M. ....	382
Jensen, Jens C. ....	321
Jensen, Soren P. ....	181
Johnson, Albert E. ....	134
Johnson, Gunder .....	314
Johnson, Hon. J. E. ....	52
Johnson, John F. ....	148
Judd, Frank E., D. V. S. ....	197
Juhnke, William .....	337

## K

Kabrick, O. A., M. D. ....	410
Kintzi, Theodore .....	90
Klaras, Fred H. ....	385
Kleven, Helge O. ....	259
Klocow, Frank D. ....	173
Knudson, Carl S. ....	392
Knudson, Elmer E. ....	179
Kobs, Johann W. ....	217
Kopperud, John E. ....	266
Krause, Herman C. ....	443
Krueger, Kumbert .....	63

## L

Laingen, Thorsten P. ....	298
Lande, O. C. ....	389
Langley, David P. ....	112
Lantz, John A. ....	486
Larkin, Charles .....	287
Larson, Lauritz .....	446
Leffler, Lorenz .....	288
Leonard, E. I. ....	405
Leonard, H. P. ....	252
Le Tourneau, George .....	87
Lewis, James .....	207
Lewis, Roy W. ....	477
Lien, Charles A. ....	103
Lindquist, August E. ....	271
Lindquist, Gustav .....	452
Linscheid, Jacob J. ....	218
Lobben, Jens L. ....	432
Loewen, Henry F. ....	483
Loewen, Nic F. ....	485
Loughran, Barney .....	424

Ludemann, Johann D. ....	471
Lundholm, Rev. Algot T. ....	220

## Mc

McCarthy, W. J., M. D. ....	280
McCauley, Edward .....	151
McClellan, Alfred J. ....	458
McLaughlin, William W. ....	274

## M

Madson, Mabel S. ....	136
Martin, Henry A. ....	330
Mather, James S. ....	333
Mathisen, George W. ....	368
Mattison, N. C. ....	323
Mead, Wallace E. ....	65
Melheim, Claus .....	428
Mertens, August W. ....	79
Messenbrink, Fred C. ....	300
Meyer, A. F. ....	335
Meyers, Rev. John .....	133
Miller, Michael P. ....	196
Milligan, Bert .....	419
Minder, Emil F. ....	68
Minion, Nathaniel P. ....	272
Missling, Gustav .....	409
Mitchell, Harris .....	473
Mooers, Ellison D. ....	213
Moore, John E. ....	421
Mullen, William A. ....	411
Muller, Gustav .....	129
Musland, Jens T. ....	447

## N

Natterstad, G. T. ....	359
Natterstad, Knute .....	302
Nelson, Christian N. ....	478
Nelson, John .....	89
Nelson, John E. ....	117
Neufeld, Peter G. ....	104
Nickel, August W. ....	342
Nickel, David A. ....	386
Noble, David A. ....	113
Norman, Rev. Frantz C. E. ....	48

# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

## O

Offerdal, Thomas .....	130
Olson, Hilmer J. ....	380
Olson, Knut .....	235
Olson, Mathias .....	364
Olson, Ole A. ....	338
Olson, Oluf T. ....	247
Osland, Ole .....	363
Otesa, O. A. ....	193
Ottum, Chris L. ....	442

## P

Palmer, U. H. ....	384
Pankow, Rev. Erdman A. ....	216
Parr, M. W. ....	413
Paulson, Samuel .....	379
Pedersen, Christ .....	97
Pederson, George .....	244
Pederson, Iver I. ....	377
Pederson, Lars P. ....	264
Pederson, Torvél .....	231
Pedvin, John .....	286
Perkins, Judge Alfred D. ....	37
Peters, Dietrich D. ....	238
Peters, Henry D. ....	296
Peterson, August E. ....	398
Peterson, Chester R. ....	77
Peterson, Laurits .....	268
Peterson, William A. ....	152
Pierce, Charles B. ....	142
Pietz, H. R. ....	294
Porter, Matthew S. ....	91
Potter, Edward C. ....	308
Potter, William A. ....	100
Prokes, Rev. Francis J. ....	50
Purrington, Lewin M. ....	417

## Q

Quade, August .....	306
Quevli, Andrew A. ....	82

## R

Radtke, John F. ....	240
Rand, Alvin .....	312
Randall, John S. ....	258
Rank, Elmer E. ....	175
Rasche, Gustav T. ....	162

Rasey, Elwin Z. ....	160
Ratzlaff, Benjamin J. ....	420
Reinert, Ole .....	303
Reisdorph, John A. ....	372
Reisdorph, Robert .....	141
Rolf, Johan, D. D. S. ....	224
Rossing, Anton .....	165
Rossing, William L. ....	255
Roxin, John .....	215
Ruhberg, Carl H. ....	404
Ruhberg, Peter A. ....	212
Running, Amel .....	78
Rupp, Jacob .....	229
Rupp, John E. ....	241
Rydeen, John .....	253

## S

Sanborn, Benjamin C. ....	437
Sartorius, William .....	124
Savage, Donald R. ....	139
Savage, Rev. Edward .....	115
Schaffer, Arthur L. ....	376
Schmotzer, Edward F. ....	352
Schroeder, Frank .....	106
Schroeder, Heinrich .....	416
Schroeder, Louis E. ....	484
Schulte, William .....	307
Schultz, David D. ....	324
Schultz, Isaac D. ....	402
Schwandt, George .....	248
Scribner, B. J. ....	289
Seely, Whalen D. ....	56
Selnes, O. E. ....	83
Senst, Herman A. ....	457
Senst, Otto .....	223
Shaner, Charles H. ....	199
Siem, Nels .....	407
Sivertson, George P. ....	127
Sizer, Michael .....	467
Skjedser, Niels .....	445
Skrabeck, Halvor T. ....	243
Sletta, Alfred .....	433
Sletta, Ole E. ....	343
Smestad, Edward E. ....	191
Smestad, Hans P. ....	98
Smith, Willard C. ....	454
Solete, Fred .....	435
Somers, John W. ....	332
Sonnesyn, C. N. ....	80

# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Sonnesyn, J. K. -----	111
Sorensen, Neal C. -----	153
Stark, Arthur O. -----	261
Sterrie, Peter N. -----	75
Stoess, Dietrich -----	270
Story, Lincoln L. -----	341
Strunk, Arthur F. -----	93
Sucker, Adolph -----	412
Sulem, S. J. -----	430
Sullivan, Edd T. -----	118
Sundt, Ole E. -----	336
Swain, W. S. -----	349
Swanson, Alex -----	168
Swartz, Arthur L. -----	164
Swenson, Gilbert -----	236
Swenson, Henning L. -----	263
Swenson, Swen L. -----	466
Syverson, Olans -----	423

## T

Tackels, LaMont H. -----	279
Takle, Jens -----	474
Thompson, Albert L. -----	149
Thompson, Jesse O. -----	57
Thompson, Knut S. -----	344
Thompson, Oscar J. -----	157
Thorkveen, Rev. Lars P. -----	72
Thorne, James P. -----	441
Thornton, Col. John J. -----	66
Tibbedeaux, Tuffiel -----	40
Tonnesson, Thomas -----	94

## U

Uhlhorn, Felix F. -----	102
-------------------------	-----

## V

Vagstad, Hans M. -----	434
Villa, John E. -----	96
Vold, M. C. -----	284
Voshage, Henry -----	190
Voth, D. J. -----	47
Vought, Andrew P. -----	226

## W

Wall, Jacob H. -----	309
Walsh, James J. -----	265
Ware, Mark C. -----	169
Warner, Andrew W. -----	292
Wenstrom, Carl J. -----	109
Wenstrom, Otto -----	92
West, Mrs. Elizabeth R. -----	408
West, John C. -----	393
Whiting, Solomon D. -----	184
Wicklund, Alfred J. -----	85
Wog, Daniel E. -----	339
Woodruff, Amelius E. -----	406

## Y

Yarger, T. M. -----	374
---------------------	-----

## Z

Zender, John -----	59
Zender, John J. -----	60









THOMAS C. COLLINS.

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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THOMAS C. COLLINS.

The late Thomas C. Collins, former mayor of Windom, president of the Cottonwood County Bank at Windom and later president of the Farmers Bank of that same city and for years actively engaged in the milling business, which is now being carried on there by his son, was a native of Canada, born on January 26, 1857, son of Samuel and Tamar (Kaye) Collins, both natives of England, who were married in Canada and who came to Minnesota in 1859.

Samuel Collins was a millwright and an experienced miller. Upon coming to this state he first located at Faribault, where he was engaged in the milling business for a time, after which he moved to Northfield, thence to Owatonna, where he built a mill, which he later sold and then went to Minneapolis, whence, after a sometime residence, he went to Hastings, where he remained until his removal to Windom in 1878. At Windom he became associated with E. F. Drake, the first president of the Omaha Railroad Company, and erected a mill, with which he was connected the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1882, he then being fifty-five years of age. His widow survived him for more than thirty years, the most of which time she spent in Minneapolis, her death occurring at Faribault on November 17, 1914, she being seventy-nine years of age at the time.

Thomas C. Collins was but an infant when his parents came to this state from Canada and was twenty-one years old when they located at Windom in 1878. He had received an excellent education and had also been carefully trained in the mills of Northfield and Minneapolis in the details of the milling business. Not long after the Collins mill was built at Windom he was made superintendent of the same and about two years after his father's death he bought the mill and continued to operate the same the rest of his life. Thomas C. Collins from the very beginning of his residence in Windom took an active part in the business and civic life of that city and was one of the organizers of the old Cottonwood County Bank, which



he served as president as long as it existed, and when it went into voluntary liquidation and the Farmers Bank of Windom was organized he was elected president of the latter institution and held that position until death. Mr. Collins also held extensive commercial and realty interests in the city and was otherwise active in business affairs. He was an ardent Republican, had served his party as a delegate to national conventions and was mayor of Windom for two terms. He was prominent in Masonic affairs, having been a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Osman Temple, of the latter order, at St. Paul. He was likewise a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which his widow is still a member, and was also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, affiliated with the lodge of that order at Mankato, and of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Woodmen of the World, also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was an active member of the Episcopal church at Windom and for years served that church as warden. His death on October 1, 1914, was therefore deeply felt in all circles hereabout, for he had done well his part, not only in the business life of the city, but in the civic and religious life of the same and his memory will long be cherished in this community.

It was on December 15, 1880, something more than three years after his arrival in Windom, that Thomas C. Collins was united in marriage to Ada Belle Smith, who was born in Livingston county, New York, December 13, 1860, daughter of Lyman Delos and Diantha (Combs) Smith, both natives of New York state, the former born on July 15, 1835, and the latter, April 22, 1833, who moved to Michigan in 1866, thence, in 1868, to Wisconsin and from the latter state, in 1871, to Windom, where they spent the rest of their lives. Lyman D. Smith erected a store building upon his arrival at Windom and became one of the foremost merchants of the town in its early days. He was a Republican and took an active part in local political affairs, for some time acting as a member of the school board. He was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Windom and was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Smith had been reared a Baptist, but his wife was a member of the Episcopal church, in the beneficences of which she took a warm interest. Lyman D. Smith died on February 27, 1881, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring on November 22, 1910.

To Thomas C. and Ada Belle ((Smith) Collins two children were born, a son and a daughter, Richard Delos and Mabel. Richard D. Collins

was born at Windom on May 11, 1883, and received his elementary education in the schools of his home town. Upon completing the course in the high school he entered the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1904. He then became actively associated with his father in the milling business at Windom, under the firm name of T. C. Collins & Son, and since the death of his father has continued to operate the mill. He is a Republican and has served several terms as a member of the Windom city council. On June 1, 1905, Richard D. Collins married Edna Kinyon, of Owatonna, this state. He is a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar at Luverne and warden of the Episcopal church.

Mabel Collins was born on January 6, 1887, and following her graduation from the Windom high school attended St. Mary's School for Girls at Faribault. She married the Rev. E. Lofstrom, professor of Greek at Seabury Divinity School at Faribault, who died on February 22, 1916, leaving four children, Marjorie, Thomas Collins, Caroline and William Kaye. Mrs. Lofstrom and family reside at Faribault. Mrs. Collins, widow of Thomas C. Collins, still makes her home at Windom and retains her earnest interest in the various social and cultural activities of her home town. She has large property interests, her late husband having had extensive land holdings in Cottonwood county besides considerable real estate in Windom, including that section of the city known as the Hutton & Collins addition to the city, about half of the houses in the north part of Windom having been built on that addition. The family also owns a valuable farm in Amo township. Mrs. Collins's father also was the owner of a valuable farm and property in Windom.

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### HON. WINFIELD SCOTT HAMMOND.

In the memorial annals of Watonwan county and of the second Minnesota Congressional district no name occupies a higher position than that of the late Gov. Winfield Scott Hammond, of St. James, who died while occupying the high position of chief executive of the great state of Minnesota, December 30, 1915. Though not a native of Minnesota, Governor Hammond had spent all the active years of his vigorous manhood in this state, having come here immediately after his graduation from one of the leading colleges of the East, and as educator, lawyer, statesman and, finally, as head of the state government, did well his part in the development of the great Northwest. For years a representative in Congress from the second Minnesota

district, his services in behalf of the best interests of this section of the state were of incalculable value to the whole commonwealth, while his active and intimate participation for many years in the general social and cultural life of his home county was productive of results that will have a lasting bearing for good throughout this entire region.

Winfield Scott Hammond was a native of Massachusetts, of Revolutionary ancestry, born in Southborough, Worcester county, that state, November 17, 1863, son and only child of John W. and Ellen (Handing) Hammond died when her only son, the future governor, was but a child, academic training, was proprietor of a jute mill at that place, his home for more than fifty years, or until his death on January 14, 1906. Mrs. Ellen Hammond died when her only son, the future governor, was but a child and the father married Josephine Hastings, to which union two children were born, Milton H., who has been a resident of St. James since 1906, following the death of his father, and who for some years has occupied the responsible position of cashier of the Security State Bank of that place, and Alice W., who married Charles H. Sturtevant and now lives at Detroit, Michigan. Upon completing the course in the high school of his native town in June, 1880, Winfield S. Hammond entered Dartmouth College and was graduated from that excellent old institution in June, 1884. In that same year he came to Minnesota, having been called to serve as principal of the high school at Mankato. His service in that connection attracted the attention of the school authorities of Madelia and the next year he was engaged as superintendent of the Madelia public schools, a position which he held for five years and during which time he did much toward improving the school system there, contributing very largely to the work of elevating the standards of education hereabout. In the meantime Mr. Hammond had been devoting his leisure to the study of law and in 1891 was admitted to the bar. In that same year he entered into a partnership with D. C. Hopkins for the practice of law and was thus engaged, with offices at Madelia, for four years, at the end of which time, in 1895, actuated by business reasons, he moved his office to St. James, the county seat, where he ever after made his residence.

In 1892 Mr. Hammond was the nominee of the Democrats of the second Minnesota Congressional district for a seat in the House of Representatives, but failed of election, this district having been carried by the Republicans in that year. In 1895, the year in which he moved to St. James, he was elected county attorney and was re-elected in 1896. In 1900 he was again elected to that office and was retained incumbent in the same to the end of 1904.



It was in 1898 that Governor Hammond's service in the administration of state affairs began. In that year he was appointed by Governor Lind a member of the board of directors for the state normal schools of Minnesota, in which capacity he rendered such admirable service that he was reappointed by Governor Van Sant and thus served as a normal-school director for eight years. Even after leaving the school room as a superintendent of schools, Mr. Hammond ever retained his interest in educational work and for years was a valued member of the school board at St. James. In 1906 he was again nominated by the Democrats of this district for Congress and in the ensuing election was elected by a good majority. His admirable service in the House of Representatives recommended him so strongly to the people of this district that he was re-elected in 1908, 1910 and 1912, declining to make a further race in order to become a candidate for governor in 1914. He was elected and was inaugurated in the following January. In the winter of that year, 1915, Governor Hammond was enjoying a tour in the South. At Clinton, Louisiana, he was stricken with apoplexy and died, December 30, 1915, in the very prime of his vigorous manhood and at the very height of his useful public career. The loss of this good man fell with particular severity upon his friends at his home in St. James and his memory long will be cherished throughout this section of the state. Governor Hammond never married. He took a deep interest in the social side of things and for years was one of the managers of the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the Revolution, to the promotion of the growth of which society in this state he contributed largely of his time and his energies.

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#### JUDGE ALFRED D. PERKINS.

It is true that an honest, faithful, capable life, considered even in its temporal relations, is not lived in vain; that its influence is not as transient and evanescent as mere physical vitality, but that the progress of mankind, in all that is virtuous and ennobling, is accelerated by it. One such life in Cottonwood county during the past generation was that of the late Judge Alfred D. Perkins, for many years a distinguished lawyer, jurist, politician and banker, whose reputation was state-wide and whose influence toward the upbuilding of this section of Minnesota was most salutary.

Judge Perkins was born in Erie county, New York, March 24, 1847. He was educated in the public and high schools of his native community,



later studying at Griffith Institute. When a young man he took up the study of law, and removed to Wisconsin in 1868, locating at the town of Alma, where he was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession one year. He came to Plainview, Minnesota, in 1869, where he spent two years, and there he was married on April 19, 1871, to Florence A. Burchard, a native of Gainesville, Wyoming county, New York. She is a daughter of Rodman and Esther Austin (Davis) Burchard, natives of New York. The father devoted his earlier years to mercantile pursuits and farming. He removed with his family from New York to Plainview, Minnesota, in 1856, and there his death occurred on February 6, 1883. His wife preceded him to the grave many years, dying on June 10, 1866. Politically, he was a Republican. He attended the Congregational church. His family consisted of the following children: Emily A., Charles D., Florence A., and Mattie Ann (deceased). Mr. Burchard married for his second wife Maggie Crossen, whose death occurred in 1901, by which union one child was born, Fay R., died in 1885.

After his marriage, Judge Perkins spent one year in Madelia, Minnesota, removing from there in the spring of 1872 to Windom, where he successfully engaged in the active practice of law for many years, in fact, was a leader of the local bar and a prominent figure in the local courts. He was elected county attorney and was also judge of probate for several years. He was elected state senator in 1878, and served four years. In March, 1885, he was appointed district judge of the thirteenth judicial district, and was elected to this important position in 1886, continuing on the bench until March, 1891, when he resigned. In each of these responsible positions he performed his duties in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned, being a man of profound legal learning, careful, faithful, painstaking and courteous, unbiased in his decisions and upholding the law in a dignified and commendable manner. He was a man of ripe legal scholarship and a public-spirited citizen who did much for his community and state in a general way, and enjoyed the good will and esteem of all who knew him. After leaving the bench he was for a period of four years state superintendent of Sunday schools, a work in which he took great delight, and he did a splendid service in this line, greatly increasing the attendance in the Sunday schools in every county. In September, 1891, he moved to Minneapolis, where he made his residence for five years, returning to Windom in 1896, resuming the practice of law.

Judge Perkins was a great organizer and an all-around business man of rare acumen. In 1885 he organized the Bank of Windom, which began

business in May of that year, he being cashier from the first. He sold his interest in this institution in 1896, and organized the Peoples Bank, which was consolidated with the Bank of Windom, April 27, 1897, becoming the First National Bank of which Judge Perkins was president until his death, September 24, 1898. The prestige and rapid growth of this sound and popular institution was due to the able management and wise counsel of the judge.

Judge Perkins was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his widow also belongs. They became the parents of four children, namely: Eliza Anna, born at Madelia, April 4, 1872, and she died in Los Vegas, New Mexico, August 5, 1902; she was a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and taught school for some time; she married Jesse E. Pope, January 1, 1897, and to their union two children were born, Gladys Anna, October 5, 1897, and Darwin Jesse, November 13, 1898. Edna Lucy, second of Judge Perkins' children, was born at Windom, September 14, 1874, and died on September 16, 1875. Truman Alfred Perkins, the third child, was born in Windom, May 4, 1876, and here he was reared and educated in the public schools, later attending high school in Minneapolis, after which he went to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he worked for the Brooks Elevator Company for about five months; then went to Mountain Lake, this state, where he became assistance cashier of a bank, which position he held about a year. In 1897 he took a position with the First National Bank of Windom, upon its organization, and he has been connected with the same ever since, first as assistant cashier; since 1912 he has been cashier. He is a director in the First State Bank of Storden, Minnesota. Politically, he is an independent voter. He is now a member of the city council, also a member of the school board in Windom. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Truman A. Perkins was married on October 5, 1909, to A. May Hutton, who was born in Windom, May 13, 1880. She is a daughter of John Hutton, a pioneer merchant of Windom. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, Jane Hutton, whose birth occurred September 3, 1912. Mr. Perkins belongs to the Presbyterian church.

Roy Burchard Perkins, fourth child of Judge Perkins and wife, was born in Windom, July 18, 1883. Here he grew up and attended the public and high schools, later the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. He owns a ranch at Lone Tree, Wyoming, where he resides.

He married Bessie Nelson on July 20, 1904, and they have six children, namely: Alfred Darwin, born April 17, 1905; Clarence N., December 10, 1906; Roy Burchard, Jr., October 8, 1908; Ruth, May 31, 1910; Truman, November 25, 1912, and Florence, January 13, 1915.

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### TUFFIEL TIBBEDEAUX.

In making up the memorial annals of Cottonwood county no record would be complete that did not carry fitting mention of the life and of the services to this community of the late Tuffiel Tibbedeaux, of Great Bend township, and who, in his day, was one of the largest landowners and most extensive cattlemen in this part of the state. Tuffiel Tibbedeaux was a Canadian, of French descent, born on June 15, 1845, son of Oliver and Mary Louise (Sears) Tibbedeaux, both of whom also were born in Canada and who lived there until 1850, in which year they moved over the line and located in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. There the mother died and the father later came to Minnesota and located in Faribault county, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1885. There were five children in the family, of whom the subject of this memorial sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Philemon, Isadore, Rosa and Joseph, of whom Rosa is now the only survivor.

Tuffiel Tibbedeaux was five years old when his parents moved to Wisconsin in 1850, and there, in the neighborhood of Fond du Lac, he grew to manhood. On September 5, 1864, he then being nineteen years of age, he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War as a recruit in Company A, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, with which command he served until the close of the war and during the period of which service he participated in some stirring engagements.

Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Tibbedeaux came to Minnesota, arriving in Faribault county in June, 1865, and there he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land, which he proceeded to develop. The following September he married and on that homestead tract he established his home. Mr. Tibbedeaux was an excellent farmer and as his operations prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres, on which place he made his home for about thirty years, at the end of which time he disposed of his extensive interests in



MR. AND MRS. TUFFIEL TIBBEDEAUX.





Faribault county and moved to Cottonwood county. He bought a quarter of a section of land in Great Bend township, established his home there and again prospered in his farming operations, gradually increasing his land holdings until he became the owner of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of land and was one of the largest cattle buyers and feeders in this part of the state. Mr. Tibbedeaux had a fine place in Great Bend township and took much pleasure in the extension and development of the same. He gave thoughtful attention to the general activities of the neighborhood in a business way and was regarded as one of the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county, so that at his death on March 8, 1908, there was general regret throughout that community. Mr. Tibbedeaux was a Republican and gave a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but was not a seeker after office. He was ever a faithful Catholic and on several occasions had served as church trustee.

Tuffiel Tibbedeaux was twice married. It was on September 5, 1865, shortly after returning from war, that he was united in marriage to Rosa D. Guyette, daughter of Joseph and Madaline (LaValley) Guyette, natives of Canada, and to that union eleven children were born, namely: Ellen, who married John Smith and has five children, Fred, Henry, Verne, Lawrence and Marie; Solomon, who married Julia Paseneaux, who died, leaving one child, Irma, after which he married Rosa Puryer; Tuffiel, who married Virginia Ebert and has seven children, Bert, Mitchell, Clemeth, Genevia, Lucile, Victor and Blanche; Louise, who married Clayton Sole and has one child, Merton; Rosa, who married Robert Coulter; Joseph, who married Cecelia Sweeney and has three children, Alfred, Adrian and another; Lovina, who married William Viles and has three children, Roy, Joseph and Blanche; Margaret, who married Henry Percival and is now deceased; Madaline, deceased; Nora, who married Anton Below and has one child, Tuffiel, and Michael, who died in infancy. The mother of these children died on May 15, 1881, and on September 23, 1883, Mr. Tibbedeaux married, secondly, Edwidge Better, who was born in Franklin county, New York, daughter of Peter and Mary (Sampson) Better, natives of Canada, and to this union five children were born, as follow: Ezra, who married Florence Sunnesack and has three children, Mavis, Colletta and Edwidge; Eva, who married Isaac Sunnesack and has three children, Delois, Reda and Phyllis; Anna Belle, who is at home with her mother; Florence, who married James Develon, and Blanche, who is teaching in Cottonwood county. Mrs. Tibbedeaux, who for some years has made her home at Windom, has a very

pleasant home there and maintains a hearty interest in the general social and cultural affairs of the city, ever interested in such movements as are designed to advance the welfare of the people of her home town and of the community at large.

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### MILTON H. HAMMOND.

Milton H. Hammond, cashier of the Security State Bank of St. James, a half-brother of the late Gov. Winfield Scott Hammond, of Minnesota, and one of the most prominent figures in the financial life of this section of the state, is a native of Massachusetts, born at Southborough, that state, May 31, 1887, son of John W. and Josephine (Hastings) Hammond, the former of whom was born at Bridgewater, New Hampshire, and the latter at Framingham, Massachusetts.

John W. Hammond received an academic education and became an engineer, settling at Southborough, which was his home for about fifty years and where he was for years the owner of a jute mill. He was twice married; by his first wife, Ellen Handing, having had one child, a son, Winfield Scott Hammond, late governor of Minnesota, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. By his second marriage he had two children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the elder, the latter having a younger sister, Alice W., who married Charles H. Sturtevant and now lives at Detroit, Michigan. The mother of these children died in 1890 and her husband survived until January 14, 1906.

Milton H. Hammond was reared in his native town, receiving his schooling in the public schools of that place, supplementing that course by a further one in a business college at South Framingham. In 1906, following the death of his father, he came to Minnesota to join his half-brother, Winfield S. Hammond, at St. James, and shortly after his arrival there, was made a clerk in the Security State Bank of St. James. Three years later he was made assistant cashier of the bank and in 1912 was elected cashier of that institution, a position which he now occupies, long having been recognized as one of the ablest young bankers in this part of the state. Mr. Hammond is a Democrat and ever since coming to Minnesota has taken an active interest in local political affairs. In June, 1916, he served as a delegate from this district to the national Democratic convention at St. Louis.

In 1910 Milton H. Hammond was united in marriage to Hazel McSteen, daughter of J. E. McSteen, of St. James. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond are

members of the Episcopal church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, and are accounted as among the leaders in the general social and cultural life of the community. Mr. Hammond is a Knight Templar Mason and a Knight of Pythias, as well as a member of the Royal Arcanum, the Equitable Fraternal Union and the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the affairs of which several organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### MILO T. DeWOLF.

Milo T. DeWolf, former mayor of Windom, former commissioner of Cottonwood county, former postmaster of Windom, a member of the board of directors of the Windom National Bank, a well-known retired farmer and stockman, who for years has taken an active and influential part in the general affairs of Cottonwood county and this section of the state, is a native of the great Empire state, born on a farm in Herkimer county, New York, October 7, 1847, son of William and Melissa (Place) DeWolf, both natives of that same state.

William DeWolf also born in Herkimer county, member of one of the old families thereabout and was reared on a farm. Later he bought a farm in Paris township, Oswego county, same state, where he established his home and there he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: James, a veteran of the Civil War, who served in the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, came to Minnesota in 1871 and settled in Cottonwood county, where he passed away; Harley, who also came to Minnesota in 1871, settling in Cottonwood county, and died in Illinois in 1906; Andrew L., of Paris, Oswego county, New York; Mary, wife of George Lynch, who lives near that same town; Nettie, wife of Austin Whiteman, also of Paris, New York, and John, who also came to this section of Minnesota in 1886 and died at Windom in 1898.

Milo T. DeWolf was reared on the paternal farm in Oswego county, New York, receiving his education in the public schools, a select school at Amboy and the Whitesboro Academy. He taught school for three years and then, in 1871, came to Minnesota with his brothers and an uncle, Moses L. DeWolf, settling in Cottonwood county, all taking claims near to each



other and becoming influential factors in the early development of that part of the county. When the township in which they settled was organized the the DeWolfs were given the honor of naming the same and they gave it the name "Amboy," in honor of their old home town in New York, and it is thus that Cottonwood county has an Amboy township. Milo T. DeWolf preempted a quarter of section 34, in that township and upon his marriage the next year established his home there. From the first he took a prominent part in early real-estate activities hereabout and bought and sold considerable land. For three years he also acted as manager of the R. Bardon farm. After awhile he moved to Bingham Lake, where he engaged in the live-stock and dray business and was thus engaged until July 1, 1889, when he moved to Windom, where he ever since has made his home and where from the very beginning of his residence there he has been one of that city's most enterprising and progressive citizens. For years he continued his live-stock operations and other business activities, but for some years past has been living practically retired. In 1902 Mr. DeWolf went to Canada and bought three sections of land, all of which he since has sold save three hundred and twenty acres. He owns a fine home on Fourth street in Windom, where he and his wife are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. They spend a part of their time in Canada with their sons and make occasional visits back to their old home in New York state. Mrs. DeWolf is active in local church work and for many years has been regarded as one of the leaders in the social life of this community. She also for years has been one of the leaders in the work of the Order of the Eastern Star at Windom.

Mr. DeWolf is a Republican and ever since settling in this region back in pioneer days has taken an active and earnest part in civic affairs. For two terms he served as county commissioner from the fourth district and was thus serving at the time the first court house in Cottonwood county was erected. During the McKinley administration he was postmaster of Windom and has also served two terms as mayor of that city, having been the city's chief executive officer at the time the waterworks and the electric-light plant were constructed. In addition to his extensive realty and live-stock operations he also gave much attention to the general enterprises of the community and is still serving as a member of the board of directors of the Windom National Bank. Mr. DeWolf was made a Mason in New York in 1872, a member of West Amboy Lodge No. 650, and his membership long ago was transferred to Prudence Lodge No. 97, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Windom, and of the Royal Arch Chapter No. 48, at Windom. He also is a Knight Templar, a member of Laverne Commandery No. 22, and a

noble of Osman Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at St. Paul, and, with his wife, is connected with the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, taking a warm interest in all these several branches of Masonry. He also is a member of the Woodmen of the World, and he and his family are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church.

On November 8, 1871, in Oswego county, New York, Milo T. DeWolf was united in marriage to Louise E. Gardner, who was born in that county, daughter of William H. Gardner and wife, the latter of whom was a Rathbone, whose last days were spent at Hartford, Connecticut, both living to advanced ages, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Blanche, wife of John Ruff, cashier of the Windom National Bank; Archibald, now of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land and assistant manager of the affairs of E. J. Meilicke & Sons, and Earl G., now with the Goose Lake Grain and Lumber Company at Ardath, Saskatchewan. Archibald DeWolf was formerly postmaster of Windom.

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#### DAVID EWERT.

It was in southern Russia, October 6, 1838, that David Ewert, the subject of this sketch, first saw the light of day. His father, William W. Ewert, and his mother, whose maiden name was Anna Buhler, were both natives of southern Russia.

William W. Ewert was a farmer and lumberman in Russia, and lived all his life in that country. He died in 1871. Some years after his death the mother came to America with her children, arriving in 1878. They finally came to Minnesota and found a location in Mountain Lake township and engaged in farming. The children of the family were: Jacob, Wilhelm, David, and Abraham (deceased).

David Ewert received his education in Russia, and came to this country with his mother in 1878. For two years after arriving in Cottonwood county he remained with the family on the farm, assisting in the farm work. In 1880 he engaged in the general merchandising business in partnership with H. P. Goetry. After two years this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Ewert has since conducted the business alone. In 1881 he was married to Elizabeth Goetry, a daughter of Peter Goetry, and to this union two children have been born: Elizabeth and Anna. They are both students at the State University.

Politically, Mr. Ewert is a Republican. He has served as mayor of the

village of Mountain Lake for about thirteen years; as commissioner of Cottonwood county for about thirteen years; and as a member of the school board for twenty years. He is at present serving as president of the First State Bank of Mountain Lake, and is also a stockholder in the State Bank of Jeffers, Cottonwood county, Minnesota. He also has an interest in the Mountain Lake Milling Company.

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### CARL CORNELIUS ANDERSON, D. V. S.

Dr. Carl Cornelius Anderson, a well-known veterinary surgeon, of St. James, is a native of Denmark, born in the city of Elsinore, on the island of Seeland, at the narrowest part of the Sound, the point where for many years the Sound dues were collected and the assumed scene of Shakespeare's tragedy of "Hamlet." Upon completing the course in the Latin school of his home town, he entered the Royal Veterinary College at Copenhagen and was graduated from that institution in 1892. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Anderson came to the United States in that same year and proceeded straightway to Minnesota. After a short stay at St. Paul, he came to this part of the state, arriving at St. James on August 17, 1892, and has ever since made his home in that city.

Upon arriving at St. James, Doctor Anderson opened an office for the practice of his profession and was soon firmly established in practice there, for years having been recognized as one of the leading veterinary surgeons in this part of the state. In 1895, about three years after locating at St. James, Doctor Anderson married and established his home in that city. He has a delightful home in Armstrong Park, in the northern side of the city, and he and his family are pleasantly situated. Doctor Anderson is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class. He is a Mason, a member of Libanus Lodge No. 96, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at St. James; a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and for twenty-two years a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Doctor Anderson stands high in the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He has filled all the chairs in the local aerie of that order and is now department president of that body for the aeries situated in the second congressional district, including the cities of Mankato, Worthington and St. James. He also has served as a delegate to the state conventions of the Eagles and has done much to advance the cause



of that order throughout Minnesota. He and his wife are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and they take a proper part in the general good works of the community, ever displaying their interest in such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

It was on December 23, 1895, that Dr. Carl C. Anderson was united in marriage to Emma Matilda Carlson, who was born in Sibley county, this state, November 17, 1869, daughter of John and Ingrid Carlson, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1869, proceeding to Minnesota and settling in Sibley county, whence, the following year, 1870, they moved over into Watonwan county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres of land in Nelson township, one-half mile east of the East Sveadahl church, where they established their home and where John Carlson spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1879, he then being forty-six years of age. His widow survived him twenty years, her last days being spent in the home of Doctor Anderson, where she died in 1899, at the age of sixty-nine years. Mrs. Anderson is the fourth in order of birth of the five children born to her parents, the others being as follow: Marie, deceased; Augusta, deceased; Caroline, wife of Nels Tropp, of Minneapolis, and Carl Herman Carlson, of northern Minnesota. To Doctor and Mrs. Anderson have been born five children, namely: Berda Eleanor, born on January 30, 1897, who was graduated from the St. James high school in 1915 and is now a student at Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter; Emanuel Cornelius, who died in infancy; Blanche Eugenia, born on January 30, 1901, now a student of the St. James high school; Harriet Roxanna, June 7, 1904, and Margaret Viola Walburga, February 24, 1910.

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#### D. J. VOTH.

The subject of this sketch was born in Carson township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, September 10, 1885, a son of Jacob and Justina (Loewen) Voth, natives of southern Russia.

The father and mother came to America about 1875 and located in Carson township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota. Here they have continued to make their home on a farm of two hundred acres, engaged in general farming. Eight children have been born to them: Lena, D. J., Jacob, Justina, Henry, Isaac, Peter and Abraham. They are members of the Mennonite church; the father is independent in politics.



D. J. Voth was educated in the public schools of Carson township, and in the high school at Windom. Later he took a course in the Mankato Business College, where he acquired an education fitting him for the banking business, in which he afterwards engaged. In June, 1909, he took a position in the First State Bank, at Bingham Lake, as assistant cashier; in 1910 he was made cashier of this bank and has since continued in that position. On January 29, 1913, Mr. Voth was married to Anna Heibert, daughter of C. F. Heibert, of Bingham Lake, Minnesota. To this union one child, Richard D., has been born.

Mr. Voth has a good knowledge of the banking business in all its details and commands the confidence of the patrons, and of the community in general, as a man of upright character and strict integrity. He is not only interested in the banking business but among the leading public spirited citizens of the community, ready to give aid and encouragement to every cause that tends to the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of the town and county of which he is a citizen. He is not allied with any particular political party, reserving the right to give his support to the candidate whom he deems best qualified for the office to which he aspires, regardless of the party faith to which the candidate subscribes.

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#### REV. FRANTZ C. E. NORMAN.

Rev. Frantz C. E. Norman, pastor of the United Norwegian Lutheran church at Windom, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was nine years old and has therefore been a witness of and a participant in the wonderful development of this region during the past generation. He was born on June 13, 1862, son of John E. and Martha (Hartvikson) Norman, both natives of Norway, the former of whom came to the United States in 1869 and prepared a home for the reception of his family near Rochester, this state. The family came over in 1871 and shortly thereafter John E. Norman and his family located on a farm south of Byron, in Olmstead county, where they lived until 1875, in which year they left the farm and moved to Mankato, where Mr. and Mrs. Norman spent the rest of their lives, both dying in 1898, he at the age of eighty-one and she at the age of seventy-five. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being Aletta,



REV. FRANTZ C. E. NORMAN AND FAMILY.



Ulrikka, Jennie, Caroline and Arnt S., of whom but two now survive, the Rev. Frantz C. Norman and his sister, Ulrikka.

Frantz C. E. Norman was about nine years old when he came to this country and his studies, which had been interrupted when he left his native land, were resumed in the Minnesota schools, his elementary education being received in the schools at Salem, Olmsted county, and at Mankato. Having early consecrated himself to the gospel ministry he then entered Augsburg Seminary at Minneapolis and upon completing the course there was ordained a minister of the United Norwegian Lutheran church in 1892. His first pastorate was at Watertown, South Dakota (five congregations), at which place he served during the period 1892-99, in which latter year he accepted a call to the circuit at Brookings, South Dakota (two congregations), and was pastor there until 1904. He then was called to Fosston, in Polk county, this state (four congregations), and served there until 1907, in which year he was called to Seneca, Illinois (three congregations), where he remained until the call to the churches at Windom, Heron Lake and Brewster, came to him in 1910, since which time he has made his home in Windom and has proved himself one of the most potent forces for good in that entire community. The Reverend Mr. Norman is a preacher of much power and has a large and devoted following in his congregation at Windom, his church exerting a wide influence in the way of promoting the best interests of the city and surrounding country.

It was during his residence in South Dakota that the Rev. Frantz C. E. Norman was united in marriage, at Bruce, June 13, 1895, to Emma Agnes Olsen, who was born in Wisconsin, June 13, 1872, daughter of Andrew and Mary Olsen, natives of Norway, the former of whom came to this country in 1863 and the latter in 1860. Andrew Olsen and his wife were married at Highland, in Fillmore county, Minnesota, later moving to Coral City (later Whitehall), Wisconsin, where Mr. Olsen engaged in the mercantile business, but later returned to Minnesota and engaged in business at Highland, where he remained for eleven years, at the end of which time he went to South Dakota and engaged in farming near the town of Bruce, in Brookings county, and was thus employed for twenty-five years. He and his wife are now living retired at Brookings, he at the age of seventy-five and she at the age of seventy-one. To them six children were born, those besides Mrs. Norman being Dora, Edward (deceased), Clara, Eva and Orrin.

To the Rev. Frantz C. E. and Emma Agnes (Olsen) Norman five children have been born, as follow: Margaret, born on September 13, 1896,



who was graduated from the Windom high school in 1914 and is now a student in the music department of the South Dakota State Agricultural College; Clarissa E., December 4, 1897, who was graduated from the Windom high school with the class of 1916; Elsie F., May 13, 1900, now a student in the Windom high school; Victor F., January 9, 1907, and Andrus S., October 31, 1911.

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### REV. FRANCIS JOSEPH PROKES.

The Rev. Father Francis Joseph Prokes, pastor of the Catholic church of St. Francis Xavier at Windom and one of the most popular clergymen in this part of Minnesota, is a native of the state of Illinois, born in the city of Chicago, but has lived in Minnesota since he was six years old and is therefore as ardent and loyal a son of Minnesota as though "native and to the manor born." He was born on April 4, 1886, son of John and Catherine (Koranda) Prokes, both natives of the kingdom of Bohemia, who came to America in 1882 and located at Chicago, where John Prokes engaged in business as a contractor in general masonry work and where they made their home until 1892, in which year they came to Minnesota and settled in Jackson county. Mr. Prokes bought a farm there and on that farm made his home until his retirement some years ago, since which time he and his wife have resided at Jackson. They are the parents of three sons, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth, the others being Joseph, who resides at Jackson, this state, and Wesley, who is operating the home farm in Jackson county. Mr. and Mrs. Prokes are earnest members of the Catholic church and their sons were reared in that faith.

Francis Joseph Prokes was about six years old when his parents moved from Chicago to this state and he was reared on the farm in Jackson county. Upon completing the course in the local schools he entered St. Procopius College at Lisle, Illinois, from which he was graduated in June, 1908. He had early consecrated himself to the service of the church and upon leaving college entered the St. Paul Seminary at St. Paul, for the further prosecution of his theological studies, and after two years' study in philosophy and four years in theology was graduated in 1914. On February 15 of the latter year Father Prokes was ordained to holy orders and on May 15, 1914, was given pastoral charge of the church of St. Francis Xavier at Windom, where he since has been located and where he is doing a noble work. Father Prokes also has charge of the missions at Westbrook

and Jeffers and under his excellent administration his parish is advancing rapidly, both spiritually and materially. Father Prokes is public-spirited and energetic and takes a warm interest in the general affairs of the community, being held in the highest esteem, not only by the members of his immediate parish, but by all throughout this part of the state who have come under the genial influence of his kindly personality.

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### ANDREW M. HANSON.

Restlessness causes many to leave our paternal halls and seek our fortunes in distant lands. Some feel this wanderlust spirit so strongly that they have no control over it. Andrew M. Hanson, cashier of the Citizens National Bank of St. James, and formerly county treasurer of Watonwan county, is one of the large band of foreign-born citizens who has come to this locality and has succeeded.

Mr. Hanson was born in Sweden in 1862, and is a son of John and Christina (Nelson) Hanson, both natives of Sweden, in which country they grew up, were married and established their home, but eventually moved with their family to America, settling in Scott county, Minnesota, in 1865, removing to St. James in 1870. The father was a tailor by trade. In 1869 he took up a homestead in Long Lake township, which he transformed into a good farm. He is now living in St. James, retired from active life, spending his declining years in ease and comfort.

Andrew M. Hanson was about three years old when his parents brought him to America. He grew to manhood in Minnesota, and received his education in the public schools of Watonwan county, and here he engaged in farming until 1904, when he was elected county treasurer, the duties of which office he discharged in an able, faithful and highly acceptable manner for a period of ten years; then, in February, 1915, he became cashier of the Citizens National Bank of St. James, which position he still holds and is giving high-grade service. He is also engaging to some extent in the real-estate business.

Andrew M. Hanson was married in 1889, to Ellen Pearson, who was born in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Clara, Hazel, Leota, Wallace.

Mr. Hanson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican, and has long been active in party affairs and influential

in his locality. Besides the office of county treasurer, he served as clerk of Long Lake township for six years, and was chairman of the township board for several years, and clerk of the local school board for six years, or until 1914. He is president of the Commercial Club of St. James, and is one of the town's most public-spirited citizens; he is also a member of the board of education.

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### HON. J. E. JOHNSON.

The Hon. J. E. Johnson, former member of the Legislature from the Windom district, a former member of the Windom city council, a former merchant of that city and for years a well-known general dealer in real-estate in that city, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of the United States since he was two years old and a resident of this section of Minnesota since he was six years old, consequently has become as deeply imbued with the spirit of the great Northwest as one native born here. He was born on March 25, 1865, son of Erick and Ingeborg (Grine) Johnson, both natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1867 and located on a farm in the vicinity of Staughton, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1871, in which year they came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county. Upon coming here, Erick Johnson homesteaded a tract of eighty acres, four and one-half miles south of Windom and there he and his wife spent their last days, becoming useful and influential pioneers of this section. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Lena, Bennie E., Martha, Arthur E., Ida and Emma. Erick Johnson was a Republican and took an active part in political affairs in the early days here.

J. E. Johnson was about two years old when his parents came to this country and was about six years old when they moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota. He grew up on the home farm, completed his schooling in the schools at Windom and when about seventeen years old began clerking in the store of John Hutton in that city, being thus engaged for nine years, at the end of which time, in 1891, he embarked in the general merchandise business for himself at Windom and was for eleven years regarded as one of the leading merchants of Windom. At the end of that time, in 1902, Mr. Johnson entered the real-estate business at Windom and has since then



been engaged in that business, senior member of the Johnson & Lund Land Company, one of the foremost general dealers in realty hereabout. Mr. Johnson, even from the days of his boyhood, has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs and has been active therein. In 1897 he was elected representative from his home district to the lower house of the Minnesota General Assembly, on the Independent ticket, and served in that capacity for one term. He also has given his time to the public service as a member of the Windom city council.

In 1894 J. E. Johnson was united in marriage to Louise Thompson, daughter of Jens Thompson and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Ellsworth and Irene. The Johnsons are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general good works of the community at large.

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### T. N. DRYDEN.

T. N. Dryden, a well-known stock buyer, of Windom, is a native of Illinois, born on a farm in Coles county, that state, December 8, 1850, son of W. A. and Amizilla Dryden, who were the parents of eight children, only one of whom, the subject of this sketch, is a resident of Cottonwood county. W. A. Dryden was born in Bedford county, Tennessee, and grew to manhood there. He then moved to Illinois with his parents, the family settling in Coles county, that state, where he worked with his father in a blacksmith shop. Not long after his arrival in Coles county he married a daughter of one of the pioneers of that section and in the early fifties moved to Wisconsin, settling on a farm in Dane county, about twenty miles west of Madison, where he established his home and where he remained until 1862, in February of which year he and his family moved to Marion county, Iowa, making the trip by ox-team. After a residence of three years there he moved, in 1865, to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and remained there until his retirement from the farm and removal to the town of Argyle, that state, where for a number of years he was engaged in the buying of live stock. He then moved to Castana, in Monona county, Iowa, where he remained until he came to this state and located at Windom, where his last days were spent.

T. N. Dryden was little more than an infant when his parents moved from Illinois to Wisconsin and his schooling was obtained in the latter state.



Not long after leaving school he rented a farm in the neighborhood of the paternal farm and was engaged in farming there until 1874, in which year he moved to Pottawattomie county, Iowa, where he rented a farm on which he made his home for two years, at the end of which time he went to Monona county, same state, where he bought a farm and was there engaged in farming until 1900, when he sold out and came to this part of Minnesota, locating at Windom, where for a time he was engaged in the general real-estate business, but presently turned his attention to the buying and selling of live stock and has been thus very successfully engaged ever since, being now recognized as one of the leading stockmen in this part of the state. Mr. Dryden is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

T. N. Dryden was united in marriage to Joan E. Howerly, and to this union five children have been born, Guy, George, Reuben, Vernie and Genevieve. Guy Dryden married Clara Lanham and has two children, Ruth and Glenn. Reuben Dryden married Florence Barber and has one child, a son, Lowell. Genevieve Dryden married Dana Goss, and Vernie married Helen Kerr and lives at Harlan, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Dryden are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Dryden being a member of the official board of the church, and they take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works. They have a very pleasant home at Windom and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

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### ABRAHAM JANZEN.

In these days of large commercial transactions, when credits cut a large factor in the daily round of business, the province of the banker is very wide and very important. The excellence of the banks of the present compared with those of the past gives to all classes of business men first-class security for their deposits, assistance when they are in need of ready money to develop their business, and a means of exchanging credits that could be accomplished in no other way. Abraham Janzen, of Mountain Lake, is one of the enterprising bankers of Cottonwood county.

Mr. Janzen was born in Germany, May 2, 1862, and is a son of Johan and Anna (Thiessen) Janzen, both natives of Germany, in which country they grew to maturity, were married and spent their lives on a farm. Mr.

Janzen grew up on the home place, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools of Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1884, locating at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, where he has since resided. He first worked in a store and the postoffice, later ran a lumber yard, then became cashier of the First National Bank, soon after its organization and this position he still holds.

Mr. Janzen was married in 1889, to Margaret Nickel, of Mountain Lake, and to their union the following children have been born: Abram A., John Alfred, William Henry, Hilda, Rudolf, Erna, Victor, Margaret and Kuno.

Mr. Janzen is a Republican and he has been village recorder and for many years a member of the school board. He belongs to the Mennonite church. He has been one of Mountain Lake's best citizens.

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### NELS ANDERSON.

No foreign born citizens who come to America are more heartily welcomed than the Swedes, for they are industrious, loyal to American institutions and make excellent citizens. One of this vast number in Cottonwood county is Nels Anderson, a highly skilled merchant tailor of Windom.

Nels Anderson was born in Sweden, October 16, 1858, and is a son of Andrew and Inger (Larson) Nelson, both natives of Sweden, where they were married and spent their lives, dying there some years ago. Nels grew up in his native land and was educated in the public schools there. He came to the United States in 1880, locating at Darlington, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where he worked at the tailor's trade several years, engaging in business for himself part of the time. He then went to Pierre, South Dakota, where he resided from 1889 to August, 1895, when he came to Windom, where he has since been engaged in merchant tailoring, enjoying a large patronage, drawing many of his customers from remote parts of the surrounding country. He has a neat, well-equipped and modern shop and turns out high-grade work promptly. He built a fine, up-to-date residence in this city in 1914. Although starting out a poor boy he has accumulated a comfortable competency through his industry and good management.

Nels Anderson was married in 1891 to Ellen S. Warneck, who was born in the state of New York in 1858, and is a daughter of Carl and Salig (Nicholes) Warneck, who came to South Dakota in 1883, and where they

both died. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson has been without issue, but they have two adopted children, Earl and Pearl, twins, born in 1903; they are both now attending school in Windom.

Politically, Mr. Anderson is a Republican. He has been a member of the city council of Windom. He belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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### WHALEN DURLAND SEELY.

The late Whalen Durland Seely, former county commissioner and for years one of Cottonwood county's best-known and most substantial citizens, was a pioneer of that county and lived to see it develop from the condition of a practical wilderness to its present well-established state. He was a young man when he came to this part of Minnesota and his energy and enterprise did much in the way of helping to promote the best interests of the pioneer community with which he had cast his lot back in the seventies. He was born in the state of Pennsylvania on February 2, 1850, and was but a child when his parents, Francis Tuttle and Mary (Durland) Seely, moved West and settled in Iowa, where he grew to manhood. In the early seventies the Seelys came to Minnesota and Francis T. Seely homesteaded a farm in Amo township, Cottonwood county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, substantial pioneer residents of that section.

Upon locating in Cottonwood county, Whalen D. Seely homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Rose Hill township and also took a timber claim of a quarter of a section and proceeded to improve and develop the same. He married in 1882 and established his home on his homestead tract and there lived until his retirement from the farm and removal to Windom in 1908. Mr. Seely was one of the active, energetic men of the community and from the beginning of his residence here took an influential part in local civic affairs. He was a Republican and for some time served as a member of the township board and as clerk of his school district. For twelve years he was retained on the board of county commissioners and it was during his tenure in that important office that the present court house of Cottonwood county was erected. Upon moving to Windom Mr. Seely bought a comfortable residence, which carried with it a fruit orchard of more than five hundred trees, and there he spent his last days, his death occurring on April 17, 1912.

On April 9, 1882, Whalen D. Seely was united in marriage to Carrie





WHALEN DURLAND SEELY.





M. Reisdorph, who was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, August 12, 1857, daughter of Silas and Betsy (Hoag) Reisdorph, the former a native of the state of New York, born in Cattaragus county on April 3, 1828, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Silas Reisdorph and family moved from Pennsylvania to Monroe county, Michigan, and there Mrs. Reisdorph died in 1863, leaving two children, Carrie M. and John A., the latter of whom is a well-known farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county. Silas Reisdorph married, secondly, Frances Dutton and later came with his family to Minnesota, settling in LeSueur county, whence, in 1873, they moved to Hennepin county and thence, in 1878, to Cottonwood county, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land, which is still owned by the family, and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1914. His widow is now living at Mason City, Iowa. They were the parents of seven children, Robert, William T., Mary I., George H., Lloyd, Elvie and Edith, all of whom are living.

To Whalen D. and Carrie M. (Reisdorph) Seely four children were born, as follow: Mary Frances, who married Harold M. Tripp and is now living at Center, North Dakota; Grace G.; Madge M., now the wife of Eden G. Lund, a real-estate dealer at Spokane, Washington, and Elizabeth June, who is still at home. Mrs. Seely is very comfortably situated in her pleasant home at Windom.

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### JESSE O. THOMPSON.

Photography is one of the newer arts of mankind. Since the days of our grandfathers, when the tintype was the only kind of likeness there has been great progress in this field of science. A highly skilled photographer may be found at Windom, Cottonwood county, in the person of Jesse O. Thompson, who keeps well abreast of the times in his chosen vocation.

Mr. Thompson was born in Benton county, Iowa, April 22, 1880. He is a son of John and Elizabeth Thompson, natives of Ohio, and Iowa, respectively. The father, when young, came to Benton county, Iowa, with his parents, William Thompson and wife, and he has since resided there, being a farmer by occupation. His family consists of nine children, namely: Jesse O., Walter, Nettie, Merl, Roy, Harry, Myrtle, Oren and Erma (deceased).

Jesse O. Thompson grew up on the home farm in Benton county, Iowa, and there received his education in the public schools and, when a

boy, began studying photography at Sioux City, where he remained four years. He came to Windom, Minnesota, in 1904, where he has since been engaged in business, maintaining a popular studio.

Mr. Thompson was married September 20, 1904, to Clarabell Bortle, of Sioux City, Iowa. To this union two children have been born, Lucile Elizabeth and Bernice.

Politically, Mr. Thompson is a Republican. He is at present a member of the city council. He was chief of the local fire department for seven years, doing his work most effectively and commendably. Fraternally, he belongs to Prudence Lodge No. 97, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, also the chapter at Windom. He belongs to Lodge No. 108, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Arcanum.

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### OLAF HEDQUIST.

Olaf Hedquist, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, now living at Windom, is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, born on November 12, 1852, son of Olaf and Mary (Johnson) Hedquist, both natives of that country, who spent all their lives there. He received his education in his native country and when twenty years of age, in 1872, came to the United States and proceeded to Chicago. Shortly afterward he became engaged in farm labor in Livingston county, Illinois, and later bought an eighty-acre farm in Champaign county, same state. In 1881 he married and established his home there, where he remained until 1901, in which year he sold that place and his wife sold a forty-acre farm which she owned there, and they moved over into Iowa, settling near Sheldon, in O'Brien county. There Mr. Hedquist bought three hundred and twenty acres, which he proceeded to improve and where he made his home for about ten years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he sold his place to advantage and came to Minnesota, locating in Cottonwood county. He bought section 35 in Springfield township, that county, and there made his home until 1915, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Windom, buying a fine residence on Ninth street, where he and his wife are now living, very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Mr. Hedquist still owns his fine farm of six hundred and forty acres in Springfield township and is recognized as a very substantial citizen. He is a Republican, but has never been included

in the office-seeking class. He was reared a Lutheran, but he and his family attend the Methodist church.

On January 25, 1881, Olaf Hedquist was united in marriage to Lillie Jenkinson, who was born in Marshall county, Illinois, September 23, 1862, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Jenkinson, natives of England, who later moved from Marshall county to Woodford county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives, he dying on February 14, 1889, and she in June, 1909. Benjamin Jenkinson and wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Hedquist was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Alfred, Jemima, William, Mary Ann, Lydia, Sarah, Benjamin, Kesiah and Anna. Of these children, Alfred, William, Benjamin and Anna now survive. To Mr. and Mrs. Hedquist eight children have been born, Arthur, Mary, Elmer, Clarence, Herbert, Lydia, Leona and John, all of whom are living.

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### JOHN ZENDER.

While the German Empire has not furnished so many settlers for Watonwan county as have some other countries, those she has sent to this locality are thrifty and have become comfortably fixed by reason of their industry. One of this number is John Zender, now living in retirement in the town of St. James.

Mr. Zender was born in Germany, July 8, 1846, and is a son of Jacob G. and Katherine (Green) Zender, both of whom lived and died in Germany, the father dying in 1869 and the mother about 1879. They were the parents of the following children: Susanna, who died in Germany; Angela, who married and spent her life in Germany, dying there a number of years ago, and had two sons who came to the United States, Jacob and Theodore Olk, of Nebraska; Katherine, who died in Germany; Peter is deceased; John, the subject of this sketch; Veronica, who married Wendal Liver, came to the United States, where she died, and Antone lives in Iowa.

John Zender spent his boyhood in Germany, where he was educated in the public schools. On August 10, 1871, he sailed from the Fatherland to the new world, locating in Chicago, where he remained until April, 1872, then came to Faribault, Minnesota, but in a short time went on to Scott county, locating seven miles south of Jordan, where he lived about seven months, then came to Watonwan county and bought a homestead right of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added until he now owns seven



hundred acres of valuable and well-improved land, two hundred acres of which lies in St. James township and five hundred in Butterfield township. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale until 1913, when he retired from active life and purchased a fine home in St. James, where he has since resided. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company here.

Mr. Zender was married in 1876, to Katie Goll, who was born in Austria in 1858. She is a daughter of Michael and Mary Goll, who came to Mankato, Minnesota, in 1867, but the following year located in Watonwan county, Mr. Goll taking up a homestead in Rosedale township, on which he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1907 at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mrs. Goll is still living on the home place, being now eighty-two years of age. To Mr. and Goll the following children were born: Katie, wife of Mr. Zender; Andrew died in 1899; Margaret is the wife of John Barrett; Frank, Mary, Anna.

To Mr. and Mrs. Zender thirteen children have been born, named as follows: Mary, Michael, Margaret, Francis, Theresa, Anton Joseph, Andrew George, Jacob, Anna Clara, Albert Joseph, Julia, Florence, and Eleanor. They are all living at this writing. Mr. Zender and family are members of the Catholic church, and he is affiliated to the German Catholic Association.

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### JOHN J. ZENDER.

One of the representative business men of Watonwan county is John J. Zender, merchant, of St. James, who devoted his earlier years to farming in this locality. He is essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and far-seeing in what he undertakes, and with scarcely an exception every enterprise to which he addresses himself results in gratifying financial returns.

Mr. Zender was born in St. James township, Watonwan county, September 4, 1876, and is a son of Peter and Magdalena (Miller) Zender, natives of Germany, the father born in 1844 and the mother in 1846. There they spent their early lives and attended school. Peter Zender came to America in 1872 and his wife at a later date, with her parents, Peter and Anna Miller. The latter were both natives of Germany, his birth occurring in 1818 and hers in 1820. The Miller family located in St. James, Minnesota, the latter part of the year 1872, and here the parents spent the rest

of their lives, the father dying in 1880, at the age of sixty-two years, and the mother in 1912, at the advanced age of ninety-two years, having out-lived her husband thirty-two years. Peter Zender secured a homestead of eighty acres upon coming here. He was a man of industry and sound judgment and, prospering with the advancing years, he added to his original holdings until he owned five hundred and one acres of good land. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, but spent the last three years of his life in retirement in St. James, where his death occurred in 1905, his widow surviving until 1914. Politically, he was a Democrat and active in party affairs. He was a member of the township board for a period of thirteen years. He was a member of the Catholic church. His family consisted of the following children: John J., Annie, Nicholas L., Peter J. and Mary. They all survive at this writing.

John J. Zender grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools. He remained on the farm until 1901, when he came to St. James and engaged in the restaurant business, beginning in December of that year, which he continued successfully until July 5, 1905. In the spring of 1906 he went to Butterfield, where he engaged in the implement business for four years, enjoying a good trade, then returned to St. James. He took up farming again, which he continued on an extensive scale until the spring of 1915, when he sold out and was employed by Meyer & Uhlhome in their hardware store until March 4, 1916, when he was admitted to the firm, which was incorporated under the firm name of The City Mercantile Company. They handle all kinds of hardware, implements, harness, automobiles, etc. Mr. Zender is secretary and treasurer of the firm. A very large business is carried on and it is rapidly increasing. Mr. Zender owned a well improved and productive farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres in St. James township, but sold eighty acres, now owning ninety-five acres in sections 19 and 20. He is a stockholder in the Security State Bank, and is also interested in the estate of his mother.

Politically, he is an independent voter. He was a member of the town council one year. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Zender was married in 1899, to Ludwina Stemper of Russell county, Wisconsin, where she was born. Her parents still live in that state. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Zender has been without issue.

Mr. Zender is a member of the Foresters and the German Fraternal Society.

Mr. Zender's paternal grandparents were Jacob G. and Katherine (Green) Zender, both of whom spent their lives in Germany, his death occurring in 1869 and hers in 1879. Their children were named as follows: Susanna died in Germany; Angeline, who married and spent her life in Germany, had two sons to come to the United States, Theodore Olk and Jacob; Catherine died in Germany; Peter, father of the subject of this sketch; John, who lives in St. James, Minnesota, is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Veronica, who came to the United States, married Wendal Lever, who lives in Carroll county, Iowa, but she is deceased; Antone lives in Iowa.

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### MASON N. CADWELL.

Mason N. Cadwell, a well-to-do retired farmer, for years an influential resident of Amo township, Cottonwood county, now living at Windom; former president of the old Mutual Telephone Company, of which he was the original promoter, and a pioneer of this section of Minnesota, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1871, in which year he became a homesteader in Cottonwood county, where he has lived ever since. He was born in Allegany county, New York, September 29, 1846, son of George and Melissa (Hatfield) Cadwell, the former a native of Connecticut, born in 1812, and the latter of Cattaraugus county, New York, born in 1813. In 1864 George Cadwell and his family came West and settled in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where they established their home on a farm. There Mrs. Cadwell died in September, 1868. Her husband survived her about eleven years, his death occurring on October 29, 1879. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest, the others being Marvin (deceased), Evalyn (deceased), Mason N. and one infant (deceased).

Mason N. Cadwell obtained his schooling in the East and was about eighteen years old when he located with his parents in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1872, a year after his marriage, when he and his wife came to Minnesota and settled in Amo township, Cottonwood county. There Mr. Cadwell entered a homestead claim to a quarter of a section of land and established his home. To that homestead tract he later added by purchase an adjoining quarter of a section and still owns his fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres there. In 1901 he went into Morrison county and bought eleven hundred acres of land, and still owns six hun-



dred and fifty acres. In 1904 he retired from the farm and moved to Windom, where he and his wife have since made their home and where they are very comfortably situated.

Mr. Cadwell formerly was an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party in his home county and was for years clerk of Amo township, as well as a member of the school board, but of recent years has been inclined to be wholly independent in his political views. He ever took an active part in such movements as were designed to advance the interests of his community and was one of the organizers and for five years was president of the Mutual Telephone Company, organized in 1902, with a capital stock of four thousand five hundred dollars, and which a year later was reorganized with a capital of forty-five thousand dollars, thirty-one thousand dollars paid up. This company constructed exchanges at Windom, Westbrook and Jeffers and built intermediate lines and was eventually taken over by the Tri-State Telephone Company, the present owners.

In January, 1872, in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, Mason N. Cadwell was united in marriage to Mary J. Waite, who was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, August 14, 1854, daughter of Martin and Jane (Vancouver) Waite, who moved to Wisconsin at an early day and later moved to Iowa, where their last days were spent, Martin Waite dying in 1886 and his wife in 1912. To Mr. and Mrs. Cadwell three children have been born, Arthur, born November 7, 1873; Myra, born December 23, 1876, and Guy E., born September 5, 1882, all of whom are living. Mrs. Cadwell is a member of the Methodist church and takes an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the same.

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### KUMBERT KRUEGER.

Kumbert Krueger was born in Germany, November 18, 1858, a son of Wilhelm and Emelia (Geisler) Krueger, who were also natives of Germany and life-long residents of that country. The father followed the occupation of a farmer. The children of this family were: Wilhelm, Reinhold, Kumbert, Powell, Max, Meta and Louis.

Kumbert Krueger was educated in the public schools of his native country, and also attended the high school. He made his first trip to America in 1874, at the age of sixteen years, and returned to his home in Germany after remaining here for about a year. Ten years later, in 1884, he came again to America, with a view of locating here permanently.



He found a location in Sheldon, Iowa, near which place he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land and went to farming. He remained there for about six years. In 1890 he sold his Iowa farm and came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where he bought three-quarters of a section of land, located in High Water township, and farmed this land for about ten years. In 1900 he came to Westbrook and built one of the first elevators in the town. He operated this elevator until 1906, when he sold the plant and became connected with a mill. This mill burned down in 1908, and then Mr. Krueger, soon after, bought the elevator and returned again to that business. He bought an elevator at Dovray, Minnesota, a few years later, and is still operating this. He still owns his farm in Cottonwood county, and also owns about six hundred acres of land in North Dakota.

Mr. Krueger was married, in 1889, to Agnes Spalding, and to this union twelve children have been born: William, Albert, Kurt, Walter, Paul, Veronka, Theresa, George, Carl, Victoria, Ernest and Dora.

Mr. Krueger is independent in politics. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

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### WILL CURTIS.

Will Curtis, editor and proprietor of the *St. James Plaindealer*, and who also is actively engaged in the real-estate business in the city of St. James, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in the vicinity of Patch Grove, Grant county, that state, January 18, 1865, son of J. A. Curtis and wife. He received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and remained on the home farm until he was nineteen years of age, after which he entered the Michigan Agricultural College, from which he was graduated in 1889. Previous to going to college, Mr. Curtis had taught school one year in his home county and was also engaged as a teacher during his vacations from college. After his graduation he was employed as principal of the high school at Beetown, Wisconsin, and after one year of service in that capacity engaged in the newspaper business, which has been his calling ever since.

It was in 1890 that Mr. Curtis bought the *Kewanee Star* at Kewanee, Illinois, and entered upon his career as editor and publisher. Five years later the Kewanee Printing and Publishing Company was organized, with Mr. Curtis as manager. It took over the *Kewanee Star*, the *Kewanee Courier* and a job plant, and consolidated the two papers, under the title of



WILL CURTIS.



the *Star-Courier*. Mr. Curtis continued as manager of that paper for thirteen years, at the end of which time, in 1908, he disposed of his newspaper interests in Illinois and came to Minnesota, locating at St. James, where he bought the *Plaindealer*, and has since been editor and sole proprietor of that excellent newspaper, which has become an influence for much good hereabout during the period of his able management. Mr. Curtis is an energetic, enterprising and public-spirited citizen and his newspaper is ever found on the right side of all public questions affecting the welfare and progress of this community. In addition to giving close attention to his newspaper interests, Mr. Curtis also is actively engaged in the real-estate business at St. James and is regarded as one of the liveliest "hustlers" in that city. He gives thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

In 1895, at Kewanee, Illinois, Will Curtis was united in marriage to Lida Jane Giffin, of that city, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: Harold, who is now a student at Hamlin College, St. Paul; Lucile, who was graduated from the St. James high school in 1916; Leslie, also a high-school student; Elizabeth, who is still in the grade school, and Bruce William, all of whom were born at Kewanee save the latter, who was born at St. James. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the various social and cultural movements of their home town. Mr. Curtis is an Odd Fellow and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these two popular orders takes a warm interest.

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#### WALLACE E. MEAD.

Wallace E. Mead was born in Redwood county, Minnesota, August 6, 1882, a son of George S. Mead, born in Otsego, New York, and Catherine (Stewart) Mead, born in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada.

George S. Mead came to Redwood county, Minnesota, in 1869, and located on a homestead in Underwood township and continued to live on this farm until 1890, when he retired and removed to Marshall, Minnesota. He was the father of two children: Wallace E. and Wesley. He was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in Company B, Twelfth Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



Wallace E. Mead was educated in the public schools of Redwood county, and later attended the high school at Marshall, Minnesota, from which he graduated. He then entered the college of pharmacy, University of Minnesota, and graduated from that institution in 1904. Before taking the pharmacy course he had been a clerk in a drug store at Marshall. After graduation he was employed as salesman and prescription clerk in a drug store, and in 1905 he became proprietor of a drug store in Westbrook, Cottonwood county, and has been in this business ever since.

Mr. Mead was married, June 19, 1907, to Ricka Winkler. They have one child, Catherine M. Politically, Mr. Mead is a Republican. He is a Mason, and a member of the Woodmen. His church affiliation is with the Presbyterian church.

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### COL. JOHN JAMES THORNTON.

In presenting the biographical memoir of this well-remembered gentleman, whose life was that of a high-grade man, of noble ideals and laudable ambitions, it is believed that the youthful reader, whose destinies are yet matters for future years to determine, will be much benefited and encouraged.

Col. John James Thornton, one of the leading lawyers and popular public officials of Watonwan county of the past generation, and a gallant officer in the Civil War, was born in Ohio in 1841, and he received an excellent education in the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He first prepared himself for a career as engineer, but later took up the study of law. He came to St. James, Minnesota, in 1871 and here he was admitted to the bar and was the first lawyer in Watonwan county. He was successful and built up a large clientage, continuing in practice at St. James until 1901, taking part in the important cases coming up in this locality for a period of thirty years and was a prominent and familiar figure in the local courts. He was postmaster under Cleveland's administration for four years, and he served as county attorney from 1874 to 1878. He was an ardent Democrat and a leader in his party in this section of the state. He was a charter member of Libanns Lodge No. 96, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and he was also a Knight Templar.

Colonel Thornton was married on November 6, 1867, to Harriet B. Brown of Springhill, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where she was born on February 27, 1846. She is a daughter of Jonathan C. and Harriet Louisa (Hulburt) Brown. The father was born in New York, October 12,

1815, and the mother was born in Hartford, Connecticut, November 14, 1815. After their marriage they resided at Springhill, Pennsylvania, the first sixteen years, then removed to Juneau, Wisconsin, in 1853, and there the death of the father occurred on January 22, 1882, the mother surviving until 1892. They were the parents of ten children, namely: Stanley, who was first lieutenant in the Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, and whose death occurred on May 13, 1868; Mrs. W. D. Warner lives in Juneau, Wisconsin; Earnest E. Brown lives in Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Mrs. Augusta C. Trawbridge lives in Madelia, Minnesota; Harriet, widow of the subject of this sketch; Mrs. T. M. Miller lives in Buffalo, New York; Ivan Brown lived in Juneau, Wisconsin, now deceased; Millie is unmarried; and Mrs. C. M. Petibole lives in Wapun, Wisconsin.

To Colonel Thornton and wife five children were born, four of whom died in infancy; John James, who survived, is now superintendent of the Bradstreet Company of Memphis, Tennessee. He married Emma Mishler.

Mrs. Thornton is a member of the Episcopal church, and the rest of the family attends this church. She has a pleasant home in St. James, where she has a host of warm friends.

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### SEVERT J. FERING.

The present efficient and popular register of deeds of Cottonwood county, Severt J. Fering, was born in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, December 2, 1869. He is a son of John and Ragna (Neshien) Fering, the father a native of Norway and the mother of Iowa. The father was brought by his parents to Wisconsin when six years old. John Fering's father, Lars Fering, later taking his family to Winnisheik county, Iowa, thence came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where he took up a homestead, but went on west to Washington territory, but returned to Cottonwood county, where his death occurred in Highwater township.

John Fering, mentioned above, was educated in the public schools of Iowa. He married in Decorah, that state, and came to Cottonwood county in 1869 and took up a homestead in Highwater township and here his death occurred in 1895. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1887. They spent their lives on a farm. He was a Republican. He enlisted for service in the Civil War, in 1861, and was in the Union army three years. He saw much hard service, being in many engagements, and was wounded at

Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was a member of the Lutheran church. His family consisted of the following children: Lewis is the eldest; Severt J.; Caroline is deceased; Laura is deceased; Julia, Iver, Christ, Otto are all living; Caroline and Robert are deceased; Gertie E. is the youngest of the family.

Severt J. Fering was reared on the home farm, where he worked when a boy and he received a public school education, later attended the Valley Business College at Decorah, Iowa. He began life for himself as a farmer. He came to Windom, Cottonwood county, in January, 1905, and later he was selected as deputy county register of deeds and later as register of deeds for two years. In 1907 he was elected to this office which he still holds, having been re-elected at the expiration of each term since. His term of office expires January 1, 1919. He has discharged his duties as a public servant in an able, faithful and highly satisfactory manner. Politically, he is a Republican. He also served as town clerk for about ten years in Highwater township. He belongs to the Lutheran church, and is a member of Windom Lodge No. 108, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Sons of Norway. Mr. Fering owns forty acres of the old homestead in Highwater township, which originally consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, eighty acres being sold eventually.

Two uncles, Andrew and Charley Fering, both came from Winnecheik county, Iowa, to Cottonwood county in 1868, taking up homesteads in Highwater township, section 26. Later, Andrew moved to Redwood county, Minnesota, where he still lives, making his home in Lamberton. He was a successful farmer, but is now retired from active life. Charley Fering moved to the state of Washington, where he lived several years, but now lives on a farm at the edge of the town of Alvarado, Marshall county, Minnesota. The town was built on his land.

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#### EMIL F. MINDER.

It seems that the Swiss have a natural bent for the jewelry business. Everybody knows that there are no better watches and clocks than those of Swiss manufacture, and never has been. A theory as to why this is true would be merely speculative, but the fact remains irrefutable. Emil F. Minder, a highly skilled workman and a widely known jeweler of St. James, Wantonwan county, is one of this number, he having been born in Switzer-



land, February 16, 1861. He is a son of John Wilhelm and Elizabeth (Voegeli) Minder, both of whom spent their lives in Switzerland, both dying in middle life, the father in 1879 at the age of forty-six years, and the mother in 1877, when forty-eight years old. They were the parents of the following children: Emma is the wife of Nicholas Zoderelle of Toledo, Ohio; Emil F., the subject of this sketch; and Louise who married in Russia, Dr. Sokolouk, whose death occurred in that country, after which she came to Illinois, and later to St. James, Minnesota, where her death occurred in 1913, leaving one child, a daughter, Lola Sokolouk, who makes her home in St. Paul.

Emil F. Minder spent his boyhood in Switzerland, where he received his education. In 1886 he came to Rockford, Illinois, where he worked in a watch manufacturing establishment until 1894, when he came to St. James, Minnesota, where he has since been engaged in the jewelry business with pronounced success. For six months he was at the stand where the Boston store is now located, but he has since occupied convenient and neat quarters on Main street. He is a highly skilled workman, having learned his trade in Switzerland and his work has always given satisfaction in every respect.

Politically, Mr. Minder is a Republican. He is a member of Watonwan Lodge, No. 207 Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, Mutual Benefit Association and the Equitable Fraternal Union.

Mr. Minder was married in Switzerland in 1882 to Emma Sophia Hentzi, who was born in Switzerland, June 6, 1860. To this union four children have been born, namely: Emil George, born in Switzerland; Georgine Blanche, born in Switzerland; Helen Louise, born in Switzerland; and Paul Louis, born in Rockford, Illinois. They all survive at this writing. Emil George Minder, who is located at Slayton, Minnesota, is chief engineer of the southern district of the state. Paul Louis, also of Slayton is now state's highway engineer.

Mrs. Mary Minder, Emil's grandmother, died in Switerland in 1912 at the advanced age of ninety-seven years. Arnold Minder, his uncle, who was an engineer in Switzerland, had charge of the railroads there for some time. He built the famous Rega railway, a feat that was formerly deemed impossible. The ancestors on both sides of the house have been educators, many of them. Mr. Minder is, himself, a man of much learning, being well versed in modern and ancient history. He has remained a student and is familiar with the world's best literature along many lines.



## WILLIS J. CLARK.

In a large measure the success of the present time in all branches of business is largely the result of the present banking methods. One of the flourishing and substantial banks of Cottonwood and adjoining counties is the First National Bank, of which Willis J. Clark is president.

Mr. Clark, who is one of the county's most substantial and public-spirited citizens, was born in Richland county, May 9, 1867. He is a son of Hugh M. and Lucinda (Duke) Clark, both natives of Ohio, where they grew up, were educated and married. They removed to Wisconsin in 1864, and about 1871 the father came to Windom, Minnesota, removing his family here in the spring of 1872. Here he conducted a meat market. He had learned the butcher business in Christian, Wisconsin, although he followed farming for the most part while living there. He continued in the meat business and dealing in live stock in Windom until about 1890, when he retired from active life. His death occurred November 9, 1915. His widow survives, being now advanced in years. He was a man of many sterling attributes and was influential in his community. He held a number of minor public offices. His family consisted of three children, namely: Mrs. Ida C. Sherwood lives at Lake Crystal, Minnesota; Willis J. and Harold M., who is engaged in the hardware business at Lakefield, this state.

Willis J. Clark grew to manhood in Windom and here he received his education, completing the course that the local schools offered at that time. When nineteen years of age he entered the employ of the Bank of Windom, a private institution, as bookkeeper, and he has been connected with the same continuously ever since. Being alert, industrious, trustworthy and courteous his rise was rapid, passing through all the positions and offices of the bank, becoming president in 1913, which position he still holds, in fact, he has done more by his conservative and straightforward business methods, his able management and honorable methods to advance the institution and increase its prestige from year to year than any other man. It has passed through two reorganizations since he has been connected with it. As a private bank it was owned by Sevaton & Perkins, but was called the Bank of Windom, later it was made a state bank but retained its former name. In 1897 it became the First National Bank of Windom. In 1904 Mr. Clark organized the State Bank of Storten, at Storten, Minnesota, and has since been its president. He is also president of the Farmers State Bank of Wilder, at Wilder, Minnesota. His rare business acumen and sound policies have made both these institutions pronounced successes.

Mr. Clark was married in 1895 to Ada M. Ellis of Windom, and a daughter of H. S. Ellis, a pioneer homesteader of Cottonwood county.

Politically, Mr. Clark is a Republican. He has been mayor of Windom and held a number of other local offices. He has done much for the general welfare of his town and community. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Arcanum and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### GUSTAV E. GILBERTSON.

As a contractor Gustav E. Gilbertson of St. James, Watonwan county, is making a pronounced success, partly because he is industrious and persistent and partly because he is honest and reliable. He was born in Norway, October 8, 1863, and is a son of Engebret and Gurina Gilbertson, both natives of Norway, both born in the year 1830. There they grew to maturity, married and made their home until 1866 when they immigrated to the United States, locating at Red Wing, Goodhue county, Minnesota, where they spent one year, then moved to Pierce county, Wisconsin, bought a farm which he operated successfully until retiring from active life and locating again in Red Wing, where his death occurred in September, 1914, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1908. They were the parents of the following children: Anna is the wife of W. D. Bishop, of Montrose, South Dakota; Gusta, who married Andrew Ulvin, is now deceased; Julius C., who was a practicing physician at Luvern, Minnesota, is now deceased; Gustav E., the subject of this sketch; Dina is the wife of Hans Norheim of Red Wing, Minnesota; Emma is the wife of Otto A. Ulvin, a banker, living in Red Wing; Christian lives in North Dakota.

Gustav E. Gilbertson was reared in Pierce county, Wisconsin, and was educated in the public schools. He remained on the home farm until 1886, when he came to Watonwan county, Minnesota; then he bought a farm of four hundred and forty acres in Brown county, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale until 1908, when he moved to St. James and took up drainage contracting which he has since engaged in successfully. He has a large and pleasant home here. He has also been an auctioneer for twenty-five years and has cried scores of sales over this country with much success, his services having been in demand in a number of counties in this part of the state.

Mr. Gilbertson was married, December 19, 1886, to Thora Sunde, who was born in Norway, October 16, 1865. When she was three years old her parents, Torkel and Ragnel Sunde, brought her to Brown county, Minnesota, in 1868, taking up a homestead on which the parents spent the rest of their lives, both being now deceased. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson, namely: George R., Elmer B., Arthur T., Roy A., Edith G., Julius C., and Gerald T. They are all living.

Politically, Mr. Gilbertson is a Republican. While living in Brown county he was a member of the school board for a number of years. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Gilbertson's contracting business takes him all over this state.

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### REV. LARS P. THORKVEEN.

The Rev. Lars P. Thorkveen, of St. James, one of the best-known ministers of the United Lutheran communion in Minnesota, for years visitator for the Windom district of that church and present secretary-treasurer of the beneficent "Skolekasse," is a native of the kingdom of Norway, born in the parish of Lom, February 20, 1857. He received an excellent education in the government schools of his native land and when twenty-three years of age, in 1880, came to the United States. Shortly after arriving in this country, Mr. Thorkveen entered the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa, where he further fitted himself for his theological studies and then came to Minnesota and completed his theological course in the German Lutheran Seminary at Afton. On January 19, 1888, he was ordained to the ministry of his church at St. James and has ever since made his home in that city, though his various pastoral and missionary labors as superintendent of religious schools, secretary of the board of regents of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, etc., have taken him to widely separated points in Minnesota and other states during that period.

During his long ministerial service the Rev. Lars P. Thorkveen has served as pastor at Albion, Long Lake, Olaf, Rosendale and Butterfield congregations. The church at the latter place he organized in 1896 and the twentieth anniversary of the founding of that church was made much of by the congregation of the same in 1916. As a missionary Mr. Thorkveen is known widely throughout the state, an acquaintance greatly enlarged during his long service as "visitator" for the Windom district of his church.



Among the various congregations of the churches thus under his visitational care he is exceedingly popular and his services in the performance of the marriage ceremony and in the preaching of funeral sermons are in wide demand, making him one of the very busy men of St. James. For years Mr. Thorkveen has taken an active interest in the affairs of that beneficent organization for the care of neglected children in the mission field of his church throughout the United States and Canada, the "Skolekasse," and for some time has been performing admirable service in that behalf as the secretary-treasurer of the organization.

Mr. Thorkveen is a student deeply versed not only in theology, but in the daily affairs of men, and his counsel and admonition in the long years of his service hereabout have been of inestimable value in this community. Spiritual ministry cannot be paid for at its true value. Fitted in many respects to occupy more conspicuous positions, he has been willing to minister to the spiritual wants of his fellow-men in the humble walks and has been content to spend his life in what might be called the humbler places—his missionary work ever having been to him a labor of love; contented to speak the gospel to the few, even though to be prepared for this he had spent long years of careful preparation. Public spirited and enterprising, energetic and progressive, his voice ever has been heard in behalf of all proper measures designed to advance the common interest in this section of the state and it is not too much to say that he is accounted one of the real factors in the wonderful progress and development of this region within the past quarter of a century and more.

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### OLE HAMMERSTAD.

The qualities which have caused Ole Hammerstad, a merchant of Win-  
dom, Cottonwood county, to win in life's battle have no doubt been inherited from his worthy Norwegian ancestors, although he himself was born under the "star spangled banner," his birth having occurred in Jackson county, Minnesota, August 29, 1872. He is a son of Ole and Marie (Quevli) Hammerstad, both born in Norway, where they grew up, attending school and were married. In 1871 they set their faces toward the New World and took up residence in Jackson county, Minnesota, homesteading one hundred and sixty acres, where they developed a good farm on which they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1877 and the mother about



1895. They were members of the Lutheran church, in which they reared their four children, namely: Tilda, Julia, Minnie and Ole.

Ole Hammerstad grew to manhood on the home farm in Jackson county, and was educated in the public schools. However, his education was limited, for he was compelled to begin life for himself when only twelve years of age, when he took a position as clerk in a store in the town of Jackson. He came to Windom in 1894, where he clerked in the store of his uncle, A. Quevli. Being alert, trustworthy and courteous, his rise was rapid and in 1900 he was admitted as a member of the firm of A. Quevli & Company, and has remained with the firm ever since, doing much toward the general success of this thriving general mercantile establishment.

Mr. Hammerstad was married in December, 1899, to Melissa Larson, of Lyle, Minnesota, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Owen, Mark is deceased, and Lynn.

Politically, Mr. Hammerstad is a Democrat. He has been a member of the council of Windom and has always been alert to the best interests of the town since taking up his residence here. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### SEVERT HANSEN.

Another of the Norwegians who have come to Watonwan county and proved that he could succeed at some useful occupation other than farming is Severt Hansen, who is engaged in the jewelry business in St. James. He was born in Norway, February 27, 1879, and is a son of Hans and Betsey Olson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married. They came to America in 1892, locating in Mankato, Minnesota, where the father lived retired until his death in 1899. The mother died in 1900. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. They were the parents of the following children: Ole is the eldest; Marie is the wife of Ole Bykhus, of Mankato; Thomas is a merchant in Minneapolis; Bertha is the wife of H. H. Myhrum, a tailor of Worthington, Minnesota; Carrie is the wife of Carl Hendrick, of Teddington, Canada; Tillie died in Fargo, North Dakota; Severt, of this sketch; Mary is head bookkeeper for the Benson Drug Company of Fargo, North Dakota.

Severt Hansen spent his early boyhood in Norway and attended the public schools. When thirteen years old he accompanied his parents to

America, and continued his education in the public schools of Mankato, Minnesota. He began learning the jeweler's trade when fourteen years of age and in due course of time became highly skilled. He came to St. James in 1899 and worked nine years for C. A. Westerbaum, giving entire satisfaction. In 1908 he formed a partnership with A. A. Westberg in the jewelry business under the firm name of Hansen & Westberg. This partnership continued successfully until July 1, 1915, when Mr. Hansen bought out his partner and has since conducted the business alone. He enjoys a liberal patronage and carries a large and well-selected stock of everything commonly found in a modern jewelry store. He maintains a well-equipped repair department and his work is very satisfactory in every respect.

Mr. Hansen was married in 1911, to Anna Matilda Westberg, of Nelson township, Watonwan county, and a daughter of A. P. Westberg, a pioneer of this county. To this union one child has been born, Mildred Synneva, whose birth occurred on June 3, 1915.

Politically, Mr. Hansen is a Republican. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church and is a member of the choir. He is a lieutenant in Fire Company No. 1.

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### PETER N. STERRIE.

The Norwegians that have come to Watonwan county have made good not only as farmers but in various vocations and have built up a thriving community. Among the enterprising merchants at the present time is Peter N. Sterrie of St. James. He was born in Norway, December 15, 1864, and is a son of Nels Hess and Johanne Sterrie, both of whom lived and died in Norway, the death of the father occurring in May, 1913, and that of the mother in 1908.

Peter N. Sterrie was reared in his native land and was educated in the public schools. When nineteen years old he came to St. Peter's, Minnesota, in 1884, and on March 7, 1887, arrived in St. James. Here he was employed for twelve years in the store of J. K. Sonnesyn. Having saved his earnings and learned the various details of the business, he started a general store of his own in 1912. He took in his brother, Ole Hess Sterrie, as a partner, and the firm name is now P. N. Sterrie & Company. They have built up a large and growing business and carry an extensive and carefully-selected stock of goods at all seasons.

Mr. Sterrie was married in 1895, to Marie Sonnesyn, who was born in Norway in 1862, and is a daughter of Christopher Sonnesyn, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Sterrie has been without issue.

Politically, the subject of this sketch is a Republican, and he has long been active in local public affairs. He was mayor of St. James for two years, and he has been a member of the city council for a number of years. He has done much for the general welfare of the town and community. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Ole Hess Sterrie, mentioned above, was born in Norway, December 3, 1877. He grew up in his native land and received a common school education. In 1895 he came to St. James, Minnesota, and was employed by his brother in the store until 1913, when he was admitted as a partner in the business. Politically, he is a Republican and he belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### OTTO E. HOHENSTEM.

When a boy discovers that his true bent is along the line of mechanics he should make every effort to perfect himself in this useful vocation. This is what Otto E. Hohenstem, of Windom did, and he is now, while only a young man, successfully engaged in the plumbing and heating business.

He was born at Lakefield, Cottonwood county, February 25, 1883. He is a son of Albert and Otella (Pietz) Hohenstem, both natives of Germany, where they spent their earlier years. Immigrating to the United States they were among the early pioneers in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, locating on a farm. The father also engaged in merchandising at Lakefield for a number of years. He removed to Windom in 1910, where he is now living retired. He has laid by a competency for his old age through his industry and good management. He has five children living, namely: Alvina, Pauline, August, Otto E., and William. The father is a member of the German Lutheran church, in which he reared his family.

Otto E. Hohenstem received his education in the public schools at Lakefield, including the high school, and as a boy helped his father with the farm and the store. He very early evinced a liking for tools and machinery and eventually went to Minneapolis, where he attended a plumbing school, in which he made rapid progress and became highly skilled in this line of endeavor. In 1907 he went to Montana and worked at Belgrade for a



period of three years, then began in business for himself at Three Forks, where he remained until November, 1914, enjoying a very satisfactory patronage, when he came to Windom and here he has since been engaged in the plumbing and heating business with his former success. He has a well equipped shop and is prepared to do all kinds of work in his line promptly and in an up-to-date manner.

Politically, he is a Democrat. He was married in 1908 to Emma Richie of Belgrade, Montana, which union has been without issue.

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### CHESTER R. PETERSON.

Such an enterprising man as Chester R. Peterson, merchant of Windom, Cottonwood county, is a credit to any city or community, and his life forcibly illustrates what energy and consecutive effort can accomplish when directed and controlled by correct principles and high moral resolves.

Mr. Peterson was born at Mankato, Minnesota, June 26, 1890, and he is a son of G. A. and Anna (Larson) Peterson. The father was born in Sweden in 1861, and the mother was born at Lyle, Minnesota, in 1864. The father came to St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1877, with his parents, and there the grandfather spent the rest of his life; the grandmother is still living, making her home at Mankato. G. A. Peterson spent his early boyhood in Sweden where he attended school, finishing his education after coming to St. Peter, Minnesota. He became a stationary engineer. He came to Windom in 1892 and conducted a clothing and gents' furnishings business, which he continued until his death on January 8, 1913. Politically, he was a Republican. He was a member of the city council of Windom for some time, and was one of the influential and highly respected citizens of this vicinity. He belonged to the Lutheran church. His family consisted of three children, namely: Melvin, deceased; Chester R., the subject of this sketch; and Percy T., the youngest.

Chester R. Peterson was two years old when his parents brought him to Windom and here he grew to manhood and received his education in the public and high schools, later attending a commercial college at Mankato. In 1907 he entered his father's store as a member of the firm of G. A. Peterson & Son, operating the Golden Rule Store, and he is still conducting the same, enjoying a large and growing business, and carrying a full line of carefully selected goods at all seasons, his store being one of the most



popular in Cottonwood county, from all over which its many customers are drawn. It is one of the oldest mercantile establishments in Windom. The firm occupies a large room in the Masonic building. It has been well named, for the company conducts its business according to the Golden Rule and hence its customers are also friends of the management, many of them having been trading here since the store was first started. G. A. Peterson trained his sons very carefully in the mercantile business in which he was so successful and they are carrying forward the business along the lines which he inaugurated. The store has steadily grown in prestige and importance since it was first founded nearly a quarter of a century ago. The mother of the subject of this sketch is still living in Windom. Upon the death of the father, Percy T. Peterson became a member of the firm in which he still remains.

Politically, Chester R. Peterson is a Republican and is a member of the Lutheran church.

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### AMEL RUNNING.

The Norwegians who have cast their lots with the people of Watonwan county have, for the most part, engaged in agricultural pursuits, but we find a number of them in various lines of business, others have entered professional life. Amel Running is conducting a grocery store in St. James. He was born in Norway, June 9, 1872. He was nine years old when his parents brought him to St. James, Minnesota, and here he received his education in the public schools. When fifteen years old he began clerking in a grocery store. He was ambitious, wide-awake and courteous and gave his employer entire satisfaction. Having saved his earnings and mastered the various ins and outs of the grocery business he opened a store of his own in 1903, and has successfully conducted the same to the present time, enjoying a large trade with the town and surrounding country. He carries a full stock of staple and fancy groceries.

Mr. Running is a son of Arne and Marit Running, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married. They came to St. James in 1880. The father has been hostler for the Omaha railroad at St. James ever since he came here, or for a period of thirty-five years continuously. He is a Republican, and he and his family belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church. He has the following children: Amel, Jacob, Erland, Minnie (deceased); Albert is county attorney; Minnie; Henry (deceased); Martin

and Severn, twins; and Alma. Albert Running, mentioned above, was born February 20, 1883, was graduated from St. James high school in 1902, then attended the University of Minnesota, completing the law course, and in 1907 was admitted to the bar, and soon thereafter took up the practice of his profession in St. James and has built up a very satisfactory clientage. He has been active and influential in public affairs for many years. He served as register of deeds four years, and he assumed the duties of county attorney in 1913, the duties of which office he continued to discharge in a manner that reflects much credit upon his ability, fidelity and good judgment and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned. Politically, he is a Republican, and belongs to the Lutheran church. He was married in 1911 to Catherine Hage, a native of Goodhue county, Minnesota, and to this union two children have been born, Catherine and Elizabeth.

Amel Running was married on January 20, 1903, to Felecia Reichlinger of St. James, where she spent her girlhood and was educated. To this union three children have been born, namely: Virginia, Clifford and Germaine. Mr. Running belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church and politically, he is a Republican.

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### AUGUST W. MERTENS.

August W. Mertens was born in Cook county, Illinois, August 31, 1846. He is a son of Christopher C. Mertens, a native of Germany, and Mary (Jaeger) Mertens, a native of Prussia.

The parents of the subject of this sketch came to America in 1845 and located in Cook county, Illinois, where they made their home until 1856, when they removed to Scott county, Minnesota, where they remained the rest of their lives. The father died in 1884; the mother in 1886. The children of this family were: Frederick G., August W., Randolph F., Minnie, Bertha, Ida, Louisa, Mary and Louis L.

August W. Mertens was educated in the public schools of Cook county, Illinois, and in Scott county, Minnesota. During his school years he worked on a farm, and at the age of nineteen he went to St. Paul, Minnesota. There he attended Curtis College at night for two years, and also learned the tinnerns' trade. He was afterward employed as a clerk for N. B. Harwood, of St. Paul, for three years. In November, 1869, he started a general merchandise store at Jordan, Minnesota, which he continued until 1875.

He then sold out and went to Granite Falls, Minnesota, where he engaged in the hardware and lumber business for one year; then removed to New Prague, Le Sueur county, and opened up a general store, dealing in hardware, implements and grain. In 1893 he sold out this store and removed to International Falls, Minnesota, where he resumed the hardware business. In a short time he again sold out and engaged in the real estate business, continuing in this business until 1908, when he left there and came to Jeffers, Cottonwood county, and started a general merchandise store. This is the business in which he is at present engaged.

Mr. Mertens is a stockholder and vice-president of the Farmers State Bank, of Jeffers; and is a stockholder and director of the American Loan Society, of Minneapolis. He is identified with the Republican party, and has served one term as mayor of the village, and also served as a member of the village council. His church relationship is with the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Mertens has been twice married. His first wife was Matilda J. Bonander, to whom he was married in 1876; she died in 1892. The children born to this union were: Mannie, Frederick L., Arthur L., and George T. His second wife was Ida Fort; no children by this marriage.

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### C. N. SONNESYN.

The chief characteristics of C. N. Sonnesyn, well-known citizen of St. James, Watonwan county, are keenness of perception, an unflagging energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests in a most gratifying manner, but also to contribute largely to the civic and material interests of the community.

C. N. Sonnesyn was born in Norway, May 22, 1866. His parents spent their lives in that country, and there the subject of this sketch grew up and was educated, and in the spring of 1885 immigrated to Minnesota, locating in the town of Madelia where he worked a year in a hardware store in the summer and attended school in the winter. The next year he went with his brother, J. K. Sonnesyn and Charles Johnson to St. James and engaged in the general merchandising business, and was thus associated for about four and one-half years. In 1890 he moved to Butterfield and there built a new store building and put in a stock of general merchandise. He became



C. N. SONNESYN.





associated with the Butterfield Creamery and was also a member of the firm then known as the Butterfield Hardware Company, and later he opened a general store at Darfur. In 1902 he disposed of his general store at Butterfield and engaged in the real-estate business, and since that time he has been one of the leading and most active land men in southern Minnesota. His dealings have included many trades for merchandise stocks and he has operated as many as eight stores at one time in this and neighboring states. For a number of years he has made his home in St. James where he carried on extensive operations, buying and selling lands. Perhaps more people have been brought to Watonwan county through his dealings than through any other individual agency. His advertising matter, setting forth the advantages of this section of the state, has been sent into thousands upon thousands of homes, and his printing bills for this class of work has run into hundreds of dollars in a single month. His plan has always been to buy and sell farms. Whenever he finds a farm that appears to him to be a bargain, he buys it, improves it and sells it again, whenever he can get a fair profit. In the year 1913, he sold \$1,250,000 worth of land. Although his main office has been at St. James for a number of years, he has maintained an office at Butterfield. His principal land business has been in selling Watonwan county land to buyers from Iowa and Illinois. He has located many of the best farmers who have come to this locality in recent years.

In addition to being a good land man, Mr. Sonnesyn is developing into somewhat of a scientific farmer. He owns about two thousand acres in this county which he works or rents. He has done much to improve the live stock of the county by importing registered breeders. He has shipped many carloads of registered stock into the county. Shorthorns, Herefords and Aberdeen Angus are the breeds favored. He is at present giving a great deal of time and attention to one of his farms which lies near the village of Grogan and upon which he has a large herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle in which he takes special pride. These cattle have captured many prizes at the local county fairs. He is an advertising booster for Watonwan county and Minnesota. His years of residence and his continued activities which have contributed so much to the welfare of the city of St. James, justly entitle him to the high esteem in which he is held.

C. N. Sonnesyn was married in 1895 to Anna Mellun, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, to which union two children were born, namely: Earl, who is living, and Ingrid Alida, who died in infancy. The wife and mother

passed away in 1901. In 1903, Mr. Sonnesyn married Elizabeth Lunde, of Minneapolis. To this second union two sons have been born, namely: Nels and Clifford, both at home.

Politically, Mr. Sonnesyn is a Republican. While living in Butterfield he was a member of the city council. Fraternally, he is an Elk, a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Mutual Benefit Association. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### ANDREW A. QUEVLI.

Perhaps no pharmacist in Cottonwood county is better equipped for his chosen calling than Andrew A. Quevli, a well-known druggist of Windom, who has kept well abreast of the times in his profession. He was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, in September, 1872, and is a son of Andrew C. Quevli and wife, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, coming to Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1870. They had lived on a farm in the old country. In 1877 the father established the general mercantile firm of A. Quevli, in Windom, which he conducted until his death, and which store still stands. In 1900 he incorporated the business and was president of the company until his death. He was a man of excellent business ability and by his thrift and good management built up a large trade, and developed one of the leading department stores in the county. It had a large drug department. He erected the store building, a substantial structure, with fifty-foot front. His death occurred in 1910. He was one of the leading citizens of Windom. His family consisted of seven children, namely: Christ is a practicing physician at Tacoma; Nels is engaged in farming and the real-estate business at Lakefield; Mary lives at Windom; Andrew A., the subject of this sketch; Anna is the wife of Joseph Jargens and they live in Minneapolis; Martha is the wife of J. E. Brady, of Lakefield; Lily is at home. The death of the mother of these children occurred in 1885. Politically, the father was a Republican. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and were also his wife and family.

Andrew A. Quevli was educated at Windom, and learned the druggist business under his father, and has been engaged in this business all his life. He became president of the A. Quevli Mercantile Company upon the death of his father, which position he still holds. He also owns the Win-

dom Produce Company. Under his able management both concerns are prospering.

Mr. Quevli was married in 1897 to Julia Larson of Lyle, Minnesota, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Valdemar, who is looking after his father's produce business, and Trueman. Mr. Quevli was again married in 1910, his second wife being Julia Erickson, and she was reared at Windom. Two children have also graced this union, namely: Clarice, deceased, and Andres C.

Mr. Quevli is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Sons of Norway, and the Norwegian Lutheran church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arcanum.

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#### O. E. SELNES.

Life has been worth the living to O. E. Selnes, now living in honorable retirement in Windom, Cottonwood county, for he has had the wisdom to make the most of it in all its relations. He was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, August 15, 1860, and is a son of Ole and Sophia (Lerbeck) Selnes, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity and were married. In the spring of 1860 they crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Racine county, Wisconsin, where they spent one year, then moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, where the father bought a farm of forty acres, to which he added forty acres, and later another eighty, all of which he sold in 1871, and moved to Jackson county, Minnesota, and purchased a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres and homesteaded eighty acres, and there he lived many years, adding to his farm until he owned four hundred acres. He finally returned to Norway, where his death occurred on October 16, 1911, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife died in Jackson county, Minnesota, in 1902 at the age of seventy-eight. Their family consisted of six children, namely: Lena, deceased; O. E., the subject of this sketch; Lena, the second, died in 1896; Mary died in 1914 at the age of forty-eight years; John died in infancy; Minnie, was born in 1870 and is living.

O. E. Selnes grew up on the farm and was educated in the public schools in Iowa and Minnesota. He remained at home until he was nearly twenty-one years old, coming to Windom in 1881 and secured a position



as clerk with Paul Seger, remaining with him for three years, then clerked for John Hutton many years. In 1903 he bought out Mr. Hutton and engaged in general merchandising, where the Foss Mercantile Company is now located, selling out to this concern in 1911, after a very successful career as merchant, and since then he has lived retired from active life. He made a trip to Germany, Sweden, Holland, Norway and England in 1911. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the substantial men of Windom. He owns valuable farming lands in Cottonwood county, also in Jackson county, and has a fine modern residence in Windom.

Politically, he is a Republican. He has been a member of the city council of Windom. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Selnes was married May 17, 1884, to Mary Blixseth, who was born in Norway, April 15, 1863. She is a daughter of Martin and Berte Karine (Aanderud) Blixseth, both natives of Norway, the father's birth occurring on March 29, 1837, and the mother's in 1841. They grew up in their native land and were married there, coming to Huston county, Minnesota, in 1868 and to Jackson county in 1870, where Mr. Blixseth took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and there he bought and sold land. He spent his last days in the home of the subject of this sketch, dying on April 7, 1908. His wife died on the farm in Jackson county, April 24, 1890. He was a Republican, and belonged to the Lutheran church. His family consisted of the following children: Mary M., wife of Mr. Selnes; Anna Margrete, an infant, deceased; Anna, who married Frank Anton, is deceased; Oscar A. lives in Windom. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Selnes has been without issue. Mrs. Selnes owns her father's old homestead, and Mr. Selnes has one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, and other lands, all amounting to nearly a section, besides other property. Oscar A. Blixseth, a brother of Mrs. Selnes, is manager of the Tuthill Lumber Company of Windom. He was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, January 8, 1881. He received his education in the public and high schools of Windom, later attending a business college in Mankato. He began life as a delivery boy in a store in Windom, but was promoted to clerk and finally to bookkeeper. In December, 1902, he was employed by the Tuthill Lumber Company, and became manager of the same in 1905, which position he has still held to the eminent satisfaction of the firm and its patrons. He is a Republican, and belongs to the Independent Order of

Odd Fellows. In 1904 he married Ida M. Miller of Windom, and to their union three children have been born, namely: Myrtle Helen, is the eldest; Blanche Lurene is deceased; and Lorene Mildred is the youngest. Mr. Blixseth owns a farm in Jackson county, Minnesota, and a good home in Windom.

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### ALFRED J. WICKLUND.

The subject of this sketch was born in Sweden, September 6, 1859, a son of Johannes Larson and Anna Cajsa, both natives of Sweden and both spent their entire lives in their native land. The father died in 1906 and followed the occupation of a farmer all his life. They were members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and were the parents of eight children: Swanta, August, John, Henry, Alfred, Ida, Augusta and Hilma.

Alfred J. Wicklund was educated in the public schools of Sweden. When not in school he found abundant opportunity in the training of industrial habits by working on his father's farm in Sweden. In 1881, soon after attaining his majority, he followed the example of many others of the hardy Swedish youth by coming to America, where there was a prospect of better opportunities for applied industry and energy to be rewarded with due compensation. After landing in New York he followed the footsteps of others of his countrymen and found his way to Carver county, Minnesota, and soon found employment working on a farm near East Union, of that county. He spent about one year in this employment and then got a position in a mill, at East Union, and applied himself to learning the trade of a miller. He soon became proficient in this trade and held the position as an expert miller in that mill for fourteen years. In 1896 he left that mill and went to Jordan, Minnesota, where he took a position as night miller in a mill at that place, continuing in this occupation for five years. In 1900 he came to Bingham Lake, Cottonwood county, and, in association with A. L. Holt, opened up a general merchandise store, and has continued in this business ever since. In this, as in all other business ventures in which Mr. Wicklund has been engaged since coming to this country, he has been quite successful. The store is enjoying a good trade, with a substantial patronage of the people of the town and surrounding country.

Mr. Wicklund was married, in 1889, to Emma Holt, daughter of John Holt. To this union four children have been born: Edward P.,

Effie M., Harry E., Lillian C. Their church affiliation is with the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Wicklund's political affiliation is with the Republican party. Mr. Wicklund's name when he came to America was Alfred Johnson, but on account of mail being mixed up so much, he took the name of Wicklund.

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### JACOB G. HIEBERT.

Russia has sent to the locality of which this history treats many good citizens. They have had opportunities given them to advance in the world, to obtain good homes and make a comfortable livelihood. Among the number is Jacob G. Hiebert, merchant of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county.

Mr. Hiebert was born in southern Russia, May 15, 1863. He is a son of Gerhard and Susanna (Enns) Hiebert, both natives of southern Russia, where they grew up, married and resided until 1876, when they came to the United States, direct to Mountain Lake, Minnesota. The father bought a farm in this vicinity on which he worked until about two years prior to his death when he retired, moving to Mountain Lake village, where he spent the rest of his days. His wife died while the family lived on the farm. Before he came to America he was a miller and spent many years in the flouring-mills in Russia. His family consisted of seven children, all still living, namely: Jacob, Elizabeth, Gerhard, Jr., David, Susanna, John and Peter. The father of the above-named children married, after the death of his first wife, Gertrude Nickle, also a native of southern Russia, and to this second union six children were born, namely: Helen, Gertrude, Anna, Marie, Abraham, and Bernhard. The above named children are all living.

Jacob G. Hiebert of this sketch spent his early boyhood in Russia, where he attended school, finishing his education after coming to Minnesota. He began life for himself in 1888 in the general mercantile business at Mountain Lake under the name of Balzer, Hiebert & Company, and this firm has continued ever since with ever-increasing success and now operates a large department store, carrying a full line of carefully-selected goods. Prompt, courteous and honest dealings are his watchwords. The present store is just across the street from the first store operated by this firm. Mr. Hiebert is also stockholder in the First State Bank of Mountain Lake since its organization, also a director in the same all the while. He is also



interested in the Mountain Lake Milling Company and the local telephone company. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the county's most substantial citizens, and deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished unaided.

Mr. Hiebert was married in 1889 to Anna Franz, who was born in southern Russia, and is daughter of Johan Franz, a pioneer farmer of Cottonwood county, coming here from southern Russia. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hiebert, namely: Susie, (deceased); Jacob and Gerhard are both at home; Anna and Laura are both deceased.

Mr. Hiebert is a Republican in politics. He has been village treasurer, and for many years was a member of the village council. He and his family belong to the Mennonite church.

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### GEORGE LE TOURNEAU.

The present efficient and popular postmaster at Windom, Cottonwood county, is George Le Tourneau, a man who has proved to be a valuable citizen in the locality of which this history treats.

Mr. Le Tourneau was born at Fayette, Kennebec county, Maine, November 8, 1851, and is a son of Jacques and Mary E. (Keating) Le Tourneau, natives of Canada and Maine, respectively. The father spent his earlier years in Canada, then came to Maine, where he married and established his home, and there his wife died when the subject of this sketch was three years old.

George Le Tourneau grew to manhood in his native community in the Pine Tree state and received a common-school education. When nineteen years old he went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he clerked in a grocery store a year, then engaged in the grocery business for himself in that city for a period of eight years. In 1878 he came to Windom, Minnesota, arriving here in July. He worked at various things in this locality until 1882, when he launched out in the feed and grain business in partnership with C. W. Gillam, which line they continued two years. In 1884 Mr. Le Tourneau opened up a meat market which he conducted alone until 1894, in which year he was appointed postmaster, during Cleveland's second administration. Soon thereafter he erected the substantial building in which the postoffice is now maintained. He served as postmaster for four years. In 1886 he was elected a member of the school board, on which he served



continuously until 1915. He has been a member of the village council for some time, and back in the eighties was village recorder.

When he was operating the meat market he started an ice business which he did not take personal charge of until 1904, and continued to give it his close attention until 1911. He has also been interested in farming in this vicinity since he first came here, owning a valuable place of eighty acres. On July 1, 1915, he was again appointed postmaster, which office he is still in charge of.

Mr. Le Tourneau was married in 1880 to Mrs. Mary B. Smith of Windom, a daughter of J. W. Highleyman. She came to Windom in 1871 with her former husband, Doctor Smith, a pioneer physician in Cottonwood county. To Mr. and Mrs. Le Tourneau two children have been born, namely: Daisy Lenore, born July 22, 1884, and Louis I., July 15, 1888.

Mr. Le Tourneau has long been prominent in fraternal circles in this section of the state. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Woodmen of the World, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and has been a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons since 1879; he was master of the blue lodge three different years. He has been a member of the chapter since 1886, and was high priest for fifteen years. He has been a member of the commandery since 1891 and of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine since 1892. Politically, he is a Democrat.

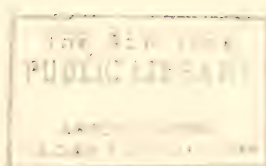
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### CHARLES W. GILLAM.

Charles W. Gillam was born in Omro, Wisconsin, April 10, 1860, a son of Samuel S. Gillam, who was born in New York, June 26, 1822. The maiden name of his wife was Abigail C. Clark, who was born in Washington county, New York, March 17, 1833. In 1869 Samuel S. Gillam came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of government land, in Great Bend township, and the following year he brought his family. He built a home on this land and began farming, making improvements from year to year until he had a good body of land under cultivation, on which he raised fine crops of the varied products for which land in this section was adapted. He continued to live on this farm until about 1898, when he retired from farming and removed to Windom, Minnesota. His wife died on May 17, 1911. She was the mother of five children: Henry C., born on November 27, 1854; William



CHARLES W. GILLAM.



S., July 27, 1856; Charles W., April 10, 1860; Edward E., May 21, 1864; and Albert S. L., September 1, 1866.

Charles W. Gillam was educated in the public schools of Windom and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty years of age. When he attained his majority he engaged in the flour, feed, grain and implement business, in Windom, continuing this business for about three years. About 1890 he became connected with the old Cottonwood county bank, of Windom, and, in 1902, was made vice-president of the Windom National Bank. In addition his other business he has been largely interested in the real-estate business.

On February 20, 1890, Charles W. Gillam was married to Helen H. Hunt, daughter of J. J. Hunt, of Brownsdale, Minnesota. To this union three children have been born: Paul J., Josephine H., and Stanley S. Mr. Gillam affiliates with the Republican party. He has served as mayor of Windom for three terms, and as city recorder for three terms. In 1914 he was elected state senator on the Republican ticket and is now holding that position. He is a member of the Masonic order, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also a member of the Royal Arcanum.

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### JOHN NELSON.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Norway and comes of a hardy stock of Norwegian ancestry. He was born in Norway, August 22, 1870, a son of Nels P. and Anna (Johnson) Nevermo, both natives of Norway.

The father of the subject of this sketch was a lumberman in his native country. He came to America in 1888, landing in Quebec. Following in the footsteps of others of his countrymen, he found his way to Minnesota. He left Norway on May 17, 1888, and June 9, of that year he arrived in Windom, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where he decided to locate. He worked at the carpentering trade in Windom and continued to make this his home. He was identified with the Norwegian Lutheran church at this place. There were eight children in this family: Peter, John, Bertha, Marie, Edward, Georgia, Christine and Nickoli.

John Nelson received his education in the public schools of Norway. He came to this country with his parents, in 1888, and made his home with them in Windom. He worked on the railroad for about four years. In 1896 he engaged in the grain business and continued in this business for



about four years in Windom. In 1900 he came to Bingham Lake and for the first year after coming to this place was manager of the citizens' elevator. For the last fifteen years he has been manager of the St. John elevator.

Mr. Nelson has been twice married. His first wife was Sophia Olsen. She was the mother of two children: Arthur and Oscar. His second marriage was to Anna Flyum, who was the mother of six children: Milo, Olga, Alvin, Effie, Norman and Edna.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Lutheran church at Windom. He is independent in politics.

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### THEODORE KINTZI.

Among the many Austrians who have cast their lot with the people of Cottonwood county is Theodore Kintzi, a successful merchant of the town of Westbrook. He was born in Austria, October 10, 1868, and is a son of John and Katherine (Bergthold) Kintzi, both natives of Austria, where they grew up and were married, remaining in their native land until 1883, when they removed with their family to Minnesota, spending a few years at Rose Hill and Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, then returned to their native land, where they spent the rest of their lives, both being now deceased. Three of their children remained in this country, including Theodore, R. J. of Mountain Lake and Margaret, wife of H. K. Rupp, of Westbrook.

Theodore Kintzi spent his boyhood in Austria, where he received a public school education. After coming here he clerked at Mountain Lake for some time. After spending three years here he returned to his native land where he remained until 1890, when he again came to Mountain Lake, where he again secured a position in a local store as clerk, later went to Canada and followed the same line of work, where he engaged in the mercantile business, with a partner, for two years. The last year he lived in Manitoba he was secretary and treasurer of the municipality of Rhineland. Returning to Minnesota in 1900, he engaged in mercantile pursuits for himself at Darfur, operating a general store for a period of ten years, selling out his stock of goods in 1910, but retained the building for some time thereafter. In that year he bought land near the town of Butterfield, where he built a fine home in which he resided three years. He moved to the farm very largely to change his mode of life at the request of the family;

after his long years of indoor work; but not having been reared to husbandry he found the labor too hard and returned to general mercantile pursuits in 1913, at his present location in Westbrook. He carries a large and well-selected stock and does a large and growing business with the town and surrounding country. While he lived in Darfur he was vice-president of the State Bank, in which he was a stockholder; in fact, he assisted in organizing that institution. He was for some time recorder of the town of Darfur, also a member of the council. Politically, he is Independent, and he belongs to the Mennonite church.

Mr. Kintzi was married about 1898 to Minnie Linscheid of near Butterfield, but she was born in Austria, from which country she came to Minnesota, when a child, with her parents who located on a farm two miles from Butterfield. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kintzi, namely: Emilia, Louisa, Leona, Ewald, Erna, Martha (deceased) and Viola.

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#### MATTHEW. S. PORTER.

Success in the meat business has not come to Matthew S. Porter of Windom, Cottonwood county, without effort, for he knew at the outset of his career that he would have to work diligently for what he expected to achieve, and not "serenely fold his hands and wait."

Mr. Porter was born in Cresco, Iowa, March 21, 1869. He is a son of James Clark and Lydia (Alexander) Porter, natives of New York state and Ohio, respectively. They removed to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, about 1876, the father purchasing a quarter section of land in Lakeside township, where he developed a valuable farm, on which he continued to reside until within about three years of his death, when he retired and moved to Windom where his death occurred, as did also that of his wife. They were the parents of five children, namely: Genevra, Matthew S., the subject of this sketch; Clarence and Mabel, twins, the former deceased; and Stella. The parents of these children were members of the Methodist church.

Matthew S. Porter received his education in the public schools of Cottonwood county. He assisted his father with the general work on the home farm when he was a boy, then worked for H. M. Clark, a butcher in Windom, for a period of six years, then bought out his employer and has been engaged in business for himself since about 1895. He has a well-

equipped market and is doing a large business with the people of Windom and vicinity. He has also dealt in farming lands for many years, and for about twelve years lived on a farm near town, operating his meat market from there.

Mr. Porter was married in June, 1895, to Annie Soule of Omaha, Nebraska, a daughter of Joseph Soule. This union has been without issue, but Mr. and Mrs. Porter adopted a son, Sherman Porter, in infancy, and are raising him.

Mr. Porter belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and he is a member of the Methodist church.

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### OTTO WENSTROM.

The well-known and successful contractor, Otto Wenstrom, of St. James, Watonwan county, is one of the large number of immigrants from Scandinavia who has succeeded in the great republic of the West through sheer courage and perseverance. He was born in Sweden, January 4, 1865, and is a son of Severn J. and Sophia Wenstrom, both born in Sweden, where they grew up and were married. In 1869 they removed with their family to Rockford, Illinois, and in 1870 came on to Watonwan county, Minnesota, where they took up a homestead of eighty acres on which the father spent the rest of his life, dying in 1909 at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The mother died in 1883 at the age of fifty-eight years. They were the parents of five children, namely: Annie, Claus, Charley J. (deceased), Emma and Otto. These parents were members of the Swedish Lutheran church. The father was a charter member of the first church of this denomination in Watonwan county. He was a trustee of the same for many years and a leader of the choir, also a deacon for a long time, in fact, was the main pillar in the church. Politically, he was a Republican, but never an office seeker.

Otto Wenstrom was four years old when his parents brought him to America. He grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the district schools. When eighteen years old he began railroad grading work, later turning his attention to the threshing business, which he has followed each autumn for the past thirty-five years and is one of the best-known threshers in the county, in which he has lived for a period of forty-five years, most of the time at St. James. He has noted wonderful changes



"come over the face of the land" during that period, seeing the town of St. James grow from the start, and he has always assisted in any way he could in its development. He owns a fine home in the town. He has been very successful both as a contractor and in the threshing business. Politically, he is a Republican. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Mr. Wenstrom was married December 31, 1891, to Ida Olson, who was born in St. James, July 11, 1872, and she is a daughter of Iver and Julia Olson, natives of Norway, from which country they came to Wisconsin about 1865, and in 1870 removed to St. James, Watonwan county, and here they still reside, Mr. Olson being seventy-seven years of age and his wife sixty-nine. She is a daughter of Andrew Bentrud and wife, who came to Wisconsin about 1852, then moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, and purchased a farm. They are both now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Olson the following children were born: Halver, Bertha, Mattie, Christie and Julia.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wenstrom the following children have been born: Harry, born November 7, 1893, was educated in the schools of St. James, graduating from the high school in 1911, and he is at home working with his father; Ruth, born on March 10, 1896, was graduated from the St. James high school in 1914 and is now a student in Carlton College; Evelyn, born on August 31, 1901, is attending the local high school. Mr. Wenstrom has been re-elected to the city council for the second term this spring.

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#### ARTHUR F. STRUNK.

Lumbering has been one of the principal industries in Minnesota, but the great forests have been depleted to such an extent that other industries have superseded it. Among those who are still successfully engaged in this line of endeavor is Arthur F. Strunk, of Windom, Cottonwood county.

He was born at Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1862, and is a son of Daniel and Eliza A. (Fish) Strunk, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their earlier years, but later came to Wisconsin, where they lived for some time. They are both now deceased, her death occurring at Windom, Minnesota, and he died in California. The father was a highly skilled machinist and was an inventor of note, especially as an inventor of devices for improving farming machinery. Only two of his children grew to maturity, Arthur F. and a daughter, Nettie, now deceased.

Arthur F. Strunk received his education at Janesville, Wisconsin, later



spending one winter in the University of Minnesota. He came to Windom in 1883 and soon thereafter launched out in the lumber business for himself, just across the street from his present location. He remained alone for many years, then took in a Mr. Sherwin as partner. The firm name is now Strunk-Sherwin & Company, which erected its present commodious and convenient quarters in 1895. Mr. Strunk has been very successful in this field of endeavor, and he is also interested in the F. Strunk Lumber Company at Lake Crystal, Minnesota, which was established by his uncle in 1882. He is also interested in the Thomas Halverson Lumber Company at St. James, Minnesota. He understands thoroughly every phase of the business and is energetic, prompt and honorable in his dealings.

Mr. Strunk was married in 1893 to Agatha Grimes of Windom, a daughter of Michael Grimes, and to this union one child has been born: Arthur Rudolph (known as Dolph),

Politically, Mr. Strunk is a Republican. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### THOMAS TONNESSON.

In the cosmopolitan life of America many nationalities are represented. The virile stock of the old world has infused into our national life many elements of lasting benefit. In the state of Minnesota we find the sturdy offspring of the hardy Norseman predominant in the business and social life of this state. This also might be said in a great measure of Watonwan county.

The history of Watonwan county would be most incomplete if, in this volume the banking and other industries were not reviewed. There have been many forces in the business life of Watonwan county, and especially in St. James, that have contributed much to the general development of the county. Among those who stand out for personal achievement and public spiritedness is Thomas Tonnesson, well known throughout the county as a leading banker and man of public spirit.

Thomas Tonnesson, cashier of the First National Bank of St. James, was born in Norway, October 7, 1867, the son of Hans and Ingeborg Tonnesson, both of whom were natives of Norway, the father dying in 1872, and the mother in 1915. Thomas Tonnesson was the only child born to his parents. His early youth was spent in the country of his nativity, and deciding to come to America, the land of opportunity, he arrived in this

country in May, 1889. He immediately came to this section and at once entered into the spirit of the community and soon became known as a factor in the business life of Watonwan county.

On July 5, 1892, Mr. Tonnesson was united in marriage with Elise Olson, also a native of Norway. She was born a daughter of J. A. and Elizabeth Olson. To the union of Thomas Tonnesson and Elise (Olson) Tonnesson have been born two children, Floyd, born on May 30, 1893, and Herbert, born on April 3, 1894, both graduates of the St. James high school, also both have taken business courses at Gustavus Adolphus at St. Peter, Minnesota.

Mr. Tonnesson, aside from his business activities, has always taken the proper interest of a good citizen in the civic affairs of this community. In politics, he is a Republican and has served for two terms as city treasurer of St. James. As cashier and stockholder in the First National Bank, he is known throughout the county as a man of splendid business integrity. The First National Bank has a high standing in banking circles and is recognized as one of the most substantial banks in this part of the state. This, in a measure, is largely due to the close attention given it by Mr. Tonnesson, and also largely due to the executive ability displayed in the office which he holds. He is also a director and stockholder in the St. James Telephone Company. Mr. Tonnesson's fraternal affiliation is with Libanus Lodge No. 92, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Concordia Chapter No. 25. He and his family are faithful attendants of the United Norwegian church of St. James, Minnesota.

In a review of those forces that have been potent in the development of achievements of Watonwan county, Mr. Tonnesson is among those who stand in the forefront.

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### SOLOMON BALZER.

An enterprising druggist at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, is Solomon Balzer, who was born in southern Russia, August 18, 1865, and he is a son of Jacob Balzer and wife, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.

Solomon Balzer spent his boyhood in his native land and there attended the public schools. Coming to America before he reached his majority he finished his education at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, whither he came with his parents in 1877. Deciding upon a career as druggist he attended the

Minneapolis Institute of Pharmacy, where he was graduated in 1890. Returning to Mountain Lake he bought out the drug business of F. J. Kane, which he has since conducted with success, enjoying a good trade with the town and surrounding country, and carrying at all times a large and carefully selected stock of drugs and drug sundries. He also assisted in organizing the local telephone company. He has been a member of the board of health for about twenty years and was village clerk for two years. He belongs to the Mennonite church.

Mr. Balzer was married in 1895, to Anna Bauman of Mountain Lake, and a daughter of George Bauman, one of the pioneer settlers in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, having come here about 1871. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Balzer has been without issue.

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### JOHN E. VILLA.

John E. Villa is a native of Norway, born on August 24, 1873. He is a son of Jens N. and Martha (Kunston) Villa, both natives of Norway. Jens N. Villa followed the occupation of a ship-builder in his native country. He came to America in 1880 and located in Windom, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and found employment working on the railroad for a year or so. After working in the vicinity of Windom for about two years he removed to Tracy, Lyon county, Minnesota, where he worked in the construction of a new railroad being built from Tracy to Marshall, Minnesota. In 1884 he abandoned railroad work and located on a homestead in Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, and engaged in farming, making this his home for the remainder of his life. In addition to farming he did carpenter work while living here. Part of the village of Westbrook now covers the homestead land of Mr. Villa. Mr. Villa died in 1895; his widow is still living in Westbrook. The children of this family were: Nels, Knut, Ole, John E., Marianna, who died young, and Bella. Mr. Villa was a Republican in politics. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

John E. Villa received his early education in Norway. After coming to America he attended school at Tracy, and also the school in Westbrook township. During his early years he worked with his father on the farm. Afterward he was employed for one year in the depot at Windom, and later was a clerk in a store in Windom. In 1901 he established a store in the line of general merchandise, in Westbrook, and continued this business



JOHN E. VILLA.





until August, 1915, when he sold out. In 1902 he was one of the principal organizers of the Citizens State Bank of Westbrook. A year later he became one of the directors, and in 1907 he was elected vice-president; the following year, 1908, he was elected president of this institution. He has held this position ever since and is actively engaged in the management of the bank.

In 1889 John E. Villa was married to Inga Johnson, daughter of John Johnson. Two children have been born to this union, Jay C. and Glen R. Mr. and Mrs. Villa hold membership in the Norwegian church.

Politically, Mr. Villa affiliates with the Republican party. He has served as village recorder and as a member of the village council; has been mayor for three years and holds that position at the present time. His fraternal affiliations are the Masonic order, the Elks, the Royal Arcanum, the Woodmen and Royal Neighbors.

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### CHRIST PEDERSEN.

Christ Pedersen, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, now living at Windom, is a native of the kingdom of Denmark, but has been a resident of the United States since 1878. He was born on January 21, 1846, son of Peter and Dorothy (Hensen) Pedersen, both natives of Denmark, who spent all their lives there, the former dying in 1874 and the latter in 1876. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, deceased; Peter, who died in South America; Jens, who died at the age of twelve years, and Mary, who is still living in her native land. Peter Pedersen was a well-to-do building contractor, and his son, Christ, was given excellent educational advantages. Upon completing his schooling he made a comprehensive tour of Europe, traveling extensively in Russia, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and afterward was helpful to his father in the management of the latter's affairs.

In 1878, two years after the death of his mother, Christ Pedersen came to the United States. His first summer in this country was spent in New York City, and then he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained two years. In his native land he had learned grade surveying and presently

he became a grade contractor on railway work in this country, working a force of seventy-five or one hundred men. While thus engaged in Illinois he married in 1885, and later moved to Iowa, where he bought an eighty-acre farm in Clay county and there he made his home until he sold out in 1900 and came to Minnesota, settling in Cottonwood county. He bought a quarter of a section of land in section 14, Springfield township, and there established his home. Presently he bought an eighty-acre tract in section 11 of the same township, and on these farms made considerable improvements, continuing to live there until 1911, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Windom, where he and his wife are now very pleasantly and comfortably situated. They are members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

On June 26, 1885, at Freeport, Illinois, Christ Pedersen was united in marriage to Ann Nelsen, who was born in Denmark, November 28, 1857, and who had come to the United States when twenty-three years of age, after the death of her parents, and for a time had made her home in New Jersey, later going to Illinois, where she met Mr. Pedersen. To that union have been born six children, namely: Hedwig, who died in 1909, at the age of twenty-three years; Peter, unmarried, who owns a farm in Jackson township; Dorothy, who married Edward Cox, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and has two sons, John and Charles; George William, unmarried, who now lives at Dixon, California; Emma, a student in the Mankato Business College, and Christina, who married B. F. Miller and now lives at Lincoln, Nebraska.

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### HANS P. SMESTAD.

Hans P. Smestad, well-known blacksmith at Windom, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1881 and a resident of Windom since 1886, being now the oldest blacksmith in continuous service in that city. He was born in February, 1862, son of Evan and Helen Smestad, both natives of Norway, who spent all their lives in their native land, the latter dying in 1911, at the age of eighty-two years and the former in 1915, at the age of eighty. Evan Smestad's parents, Hans and Johanna Smestad, came to America years ago, proceeding to Minnesota and settling at Lakefield, Jackson county, where they spent their last days, the latter dying in 1893, at the age of ninety-one years, and the former in 1898, at the age of ninety-three years.

When he was nineteen years old, in 1881, Hans P. Smestad came to the United States and proceeded at once to this state. He spent a couple of weeks with his grandparents at Lakesfield and then located at Albert Lea, where he spent five years working at his trade as a blacksmith and where he married. In 1886, the year after his marriage, he moved to Windom, where he opened a blacksmith shop and where he has been engaged in that business ever since. Mr. Smestad has done very well at his trade and is the owner of his shop and a good residence in Windom. No other smith in town has been engaged in business there so long as he and he has long been regarded as one of the substantial residents of the town. Mr. Smestad is a Republican. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

It was in 1885, at Albert Lea, that Hans P. Smestad was united in marriage to Johanna Arveson, who was born in Norway, daughter of John and Martha Arveson, who later located at Windom, where both died, and to this union four children have been born, Inger, Emor, Mattie and Palma, all of whom are living.

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### THEODORE J. ARNESON.

As a jeweler, Theodore J. Arneson, of Westbrook, Cottonwood county, has made a decided success while yet a young man, but he has been willing to apply himself closely to his chosen line of endeavor and deal honestly with his fellow men.

Mr. Arneson was born in Westbrook township, this county, September 22, 1883, and is a son of Edward J. and Olena (Pederson) Arneson, both natives of Norway. The father came to Wisconsin when a young man, where he worked for a short time. The mother came to Stearns county, Minnesota, when young. He came to Cottonwood county about 1875 and entered a homestead in Westbrook township, and there these parents were married and developed a good farm and a comfortable home by their industry, accumulating in all three eighties. They removed to South Dakota about 1905 and later to Texas, where he is still engaged in raising cotton. His wife died there in 1913. They became the parents of four children, all still living, namely: Alfred, Theodore, Hannah and Laura.

Theodore J. Arneson grew up on the home farm and he received a public school education, later attending the Southern Minnesota Normal



School at Austin, then took a correspondence course with the Northern Illinois Optical College, receiving a state certificate in 1912. He learned the jeweler's and watchmaker's trade by home study from text-books. Since 1907 he has been engaged in the jewelry business, also as an optometrist, for which he is exceptionally well equipped and is doing some excellent work and he has built up a very successful and rapidly growing business. He owns eighty acres of the old homestead, also the building in which his business is located.

Mr. Arneson was married in 1909 to Tina B. Amundson, of Murray county, Minnesota, and to their union two children have been born, namely: Leslie Evert and Thelma Harriet.

Politically, he is a Republican. He has been justice of the peace in Westbrook township, filling the office very satisfactorily. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America, and is secretary of the local lodge. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

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### WILLIAM A. POTTER.

The subject of this sketch was born in Onondaga county, New York, June 28, 1839. His parents were Josiah and Marian (Mills) Potter, both natives of New York.

Josiah Potter was a laboring man in New York, engaged in various lines of employment. In 1845 he moved with his family to Wyandot county, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming until 1850. In that year he removed to Hardin county, Ohio, where he continued farming until his death, which occurred in 1890. There were six children in this family: George, who died young; William A., Sophrona E., Mary J., Charles F. and Lucy F. Mr. Potter was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William A. Potter was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and lived at home with his parents until the beginning of the Civil War. In that crisis of the country's history, Mr. Potter followed the example of thousands of other loyal men of Ohio, by enlisting as a soldier in defense of the flag. On October 12, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Eighty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served three years in that regiment, completing his term of service in October, 1864, having followed the fortunes of his regiment through all its campaigns, and participating in the several battles in which the regiment was engaged during three years of service. In the early part of the service the Eighty-second Ohio was in the Army of the

Potomac, and participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and others in which that part of the army was engaged. In October, 1863, this regiment was transferred with General Hooker's command to the army operating around Chattanooga, then under the general command of Grant. Here, Mr. Potter, with his regiment, participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Later, he was with the regiment in the Atlanta campaign, under command of General Sherman, and with Sherman in the several engagements in that campaign.

After the completion of his three years service in the Eighty-second Ohio, Mr. Potter was commissioned as first lieutenant in Company K, One Hundred and Eightieth Ohio Infantry, and served in this company and regiment until he was discharged, July 12, 1865, on account of the expiration of the war. He was discharged at Charlotte, North Carolina, his last service being with the army under General Sherman, in that part of the Southern Confederacy.

Returning to his home after his army service, Mr. Potter turned his attention to civil pursuits. In 1867 he went to Dodge county, Minnesota, and settled on a farm near Mantorville. He continued to live here for about seven years. In the fall of 1874, he removed to New Ulm, Minnesota, and remained there for about three years. In the spring of 1878 he moved to Amboy township, Cottonwood county, and located a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which he improved and on which he established his home. Here he continued to live until 1910, when he retired from active work and moved to Jeffers, where he has since lived.

Mr. Potter was married on December 20, 1866, to Belle Baker, born on April 22, 1845, daughter of Joseph and Matilda (Carmack) Baker, natives of Pennsylvania, who later moved to Ohio, where they remained all their lives. To this union seven children were born: Minnie, Effie S., Charles J., George W., Claud B., Edward C. and Cora B.

Politically, Mr. Potter is a Republican. While living in Amboy township he served almost continuously, either as a member of township board or as township clerk. In the session of the Minnesota Legislature of 1901 and 1902, he represented his county in that body.

Personally, Mr. Potter is a gentleman of pleasing manner and with a character above reproach. He has an enviable record as a soldier and as a citizen, and is held in the highest esteem by the people of Cottonwood county, whom he has officially served and by whom he is well known. He is now serving as mayor of Jeffers.

## FELIX FREDERICK UHLHORN.

Comparatively few of the men of Watonwan county who are today active in business, agricultural or professional life here, are natives of this locality. One of the native-born sons who has been prudent in remaining in his native county is Felix Frederick Uhlhorn, merchant of St. James. He was born in Adrian township, Watonwan county, May 28, 1872, and is a son of Frederick William and Caroline (Brunder) Uhlhorn, both natives of Alsace-Lorraine, formerly a province of France, and there they spent their earlier years, emigrating to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1868, then moved to Beaver Dam, that state, where they spent one year, then came to Adrian township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, May 5, 1872, and bought a soldier's claim of one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Uhlhorn prospered and added to his holdings until he owned eight hundred acres of valuable land in Watonwan and Brown counties, and he carried on general farming and stock raising on an enormous scale. Politically, he was a Republican, and he belonged to the German Lutheran church, of which he was one of the founders. He was a local preacher and often filled the pulpit of his church, also conducted many funerals. He was also interested in school work. He was clerk of Adrian township for about eighteen years and was a member of the school board for a number of years, also filled the office of county commissioner for several years, and for eight years was judge of the probate court of Watonwan county, finally resigning the office. As a public servant he discharged his duties most ably and faithfully and was one of the most influential and popular men in the county during his day. He spent the last years of his life in retirement, dying on September 21, 1900, at the age of sixty-five years. His widow is still living, at the age of seventy-nine years. She was born on September 30, 1837. The father of the subject of this sketch was born on March 24, 1835. To these parents the following children were born: Herman Henry, August Albert, Fannie, Emil Ernest, Felix Frederick, Oscar Otto, Bertha Mary. They are all living at this writing.

Felix F. Uhlhorn grew to manhood on the old homestead, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the local public schools. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-six years old, when he came into possession of two hundred and eighty acres of the homestead, which he conducted about six years. In 1904 he came to St. James, where he held various positions until 1913, when he engaged in the hardware business



under the firm name of Meyer & Uhlhorn, building up a large business. On March 4, 1916, the firm was incorporated under the name of The City Mercantile Company, with Mr. Uhlhorn as secretary and vice-president. A large stock of general hardware and implements is carried and the business is rapidly growing. Mr. Uhlhorn still owns his valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred and eighty acres, also valuable property in St. James.

Mr. Uhlhorn was married on June 22, 1898, to Emma Henrietta Kruger, of Brown county, Minnesota, and to their union four children have been born, namely: Anna Clara Bertha, Hertha Anna Minnie, Arthur Frederick is deceased, and Gertrude Christine.

Politically, Mr. Uhlhorn is a Republican. He has been a member of the school board of the German school for six years. He belongs to the German Lutheran church.

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### CHARLES A. LIEN.

The ancestry of Charles A. Lien, the subject of this sketch, is of the sturdy German stock. His father, Valentine Lien, and his mother, Elisi (Muller) Lien, were natives of Germany and spent their entire life in their native country. The elder Lien was a contractor by occupation. They were both members of the Lutheran church. The children of the family were: Charles A., Anna, Emma and Hugo.

Charles A. Lien was born in Germany, October 18, 1862. He received his education in the public schools of his native country, supplementing this by a four years course in Gotha college, which he attended after his elementary education. During his youthful years, when not attending school, he worked in the contracting business with his father. In 1883, at the age of twenty-one, he came to America with a view of seeking a greater opportunity for the application of his mental and industrial energy. He was the only one of the family that came to this country. After landing in New York, and making some observations and inquiries as to the opportunities afforded there, he decided to proceed further west. Following his inclination he found his way to Chicago, where he first secured employment. He worked for the first few years in Chicago, Milwaukee and in other parts of Wisconsin, at whatever he could find to do, and with his native-born energy and industry, it was no trouble for him to secure employment where energy and industry were essential qualifications. In 1885 he went to South Dakota and worked on a farm for about three years. In the fall of 1899



he came to Bingham Lake, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and engaged in buying grain for the Anchor Grain Company, of Minneapolis. In 1905 he bought the Hubbard & Palmer elevator and has since continued to operate the same, handling grain, feed, flour, coal and farm machinery.

Mr. Lien was married, in 1886, to Laura Lowins, of Dodge county, Wisconsin. The children born to this union are: Carl, born on July 4, 1900; Myrtle, Holden, Harry, Earl, Henry, Mae and Mildred.

Mr. Lien is a member of the Baptist church. His political affiliation is with the Republican party. He is a member of the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Woodmen.

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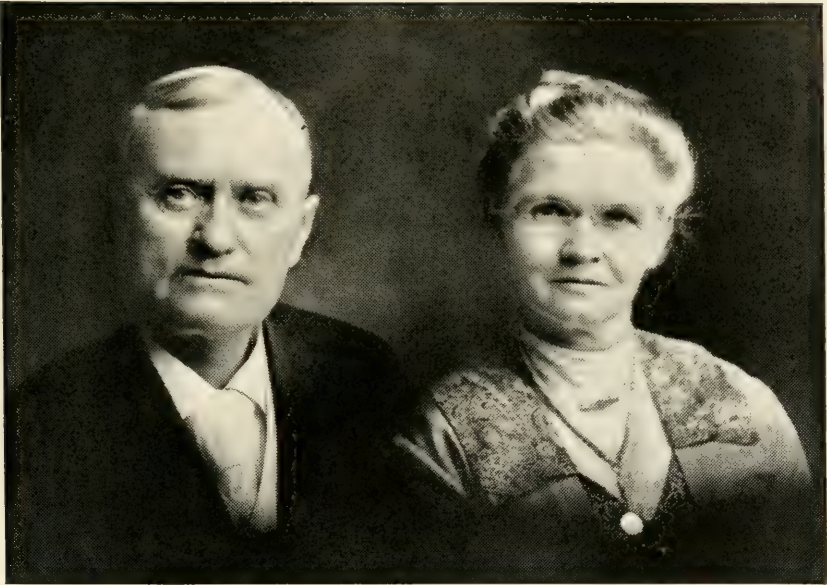
### PETER G. NEUFELD.

Peter G. Neufeld was born in Tuerstenan, South Russia, April 23, 1860, a son of Gerhard Neufeld, who was born in the same place, November 4, 1827. The mother of the subject of this sketch, whose maiden name was Anna Toeckrew, was also born in Russia, where she died.

Gerhard Neufeld was a minister in Russia, and also engaged in farming. He came to America in 1878 and located in Cottonwood county, near Mountain Lake, Minnesota. He settled on a farm of six hundred and forty acres, and continued to live there until about 1895, when he retired from active work. He now lives in Mountain Lake. He was the father of six children, all of whom are living: Catherine, Anna, Maria, Gerhard, Peter G. and Henry G.

Peter G. Neufeld was educated in the schools of Russia. He came to America with his father, arriving in New York, July 2, 1878. He came with his parents to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and after coming here he attended school at Mountain Lake, in order to acquire some knowledge of education adapted to this country. During his minority he worked on his father's farm. In 1894 he engaged in the business of buying grain at Mountain Lake and continued in this business for a few years. In 1899 he was appointed to the office of clerk of the court, in Cottonwood county, and on June 1, of that year, he came to Windom to assume the duties of his office. He has continued to hold this office ever since, having been elected as his own successor at each election since 1899.

Peter G. Neufeld was married on April 28, 1889, to Anna Penner, and to this union five children have been born: Margaretha, Anna, Justina,



MR. AND MRS. PETER NEUFELD.



Mathilda M. and Elizabeth R. Mr. Neufeld has always taken an active part in politics. He is one of the leading Republicans of the county and is deeply interested in the promotion of the principles of that party.

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### FRANK T. ANTON.

The late Frank T. Anton was a man who believed in making the most of life's little span and in assisting, whenever practicable, those whom he came in contact with along the journey, consequently he was admired and esteemed by all who knew him and was rated a good citizen in every respect. He was a leading merchant at Windom.

Mr. Anton was born near Staughton, Wisconsin, September 17, 1866, and was a son of Ola and Maritl Anton, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to Wisconsin when young and were married in that state, removing to Iowa about 1868, where they remained a short time, then moved to Jackson county, Minnesota, locating three miles southeast of Windom, where they engaged in farming until they retired and moved to Windom. Their family consisted of ten children, seven of whom are living at this writing, namely: Anthony, Albert, Martin, Godfrey, Caroline, Anna and Ida.

Frank T. Anton grew up on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools of Jackson county. After leaving school he came to Windom and clerked in a store for Robison & Freeman, and during this period he attended night school, being ambitious to obtain a higher education to fit him properly for his life work. Later, he worked for Thurston Brothers for a number of years, during which time he learned the various phases of the mercantile business, and in 1893 he entered partnership with J. E. Johnson in the general merchandise business, in which he remained for some time, when he and his partner sold out, Mr. Anton and his family removing to Minneapolis, where he engaged in the laundry business for two years and then returned to Windom. In partnership with O. E. Selnes he bought the Hutton general store, which they operated several years, then sold out, Mr. Anton forming a partnership with Gustav Muller, they buying out the clothing stock of J. E. Jennis. The partnership with Muller continued until Mr. Anton's death. He was very successful as a merchant, always living up to the precepts of the Golden Rule, and his customers were always sure to receive honest



and courteous consideration at his hands. He was a man of sound business judgment and foresight.

Mr. Anton was married on August 28, 1893, to Anna Erickson, a daughter of Carl G. and Charlotte (Olson) Erickson, and to this union three children were born, namely: Arthur, Clinton and Delbert. Mrs. Anton, who was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, where she grew to womanhood and was educated in the public schools, was the daughter of Swedish parents, both born, reared and educated in Sweden, in which country they were married. They finally came to Minnesota and homesteaded land in Jackson county, where they farmed until 1893, when they retired and moved to Windom where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1912 and the mother in 1915. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living, namely: Emma, Anna, Ida, Marie, Julia, Helda and William.

Frank T. Anton was a Republican. He took an active interest in the welfare of his town and county, and served as alderman for a number of years, also on the local school board. Fraternally, he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. The death of Mr. Anton occurred on December 2, 1913, at the early age of forty-seven years, when in the prime of life and usefulness.

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### FRANK SCHROEDER.

The grain business has been one of the principal industries of Cottonwood and adjoining counties for a number of decades, and a number of elevators have been erected to care properly for the great harvests of wheat. The one located at Mountain Lake is operated with success by Frank Schroeder, an enterprising gentleman who came to us from far across the sea.

Mr. Schroeder was born in the southern part of Russia, February 5, 1862. He is a son of David and Katherine (Neufeld) Schroeder, both natives of the southern part of Russia, where they grew up, were married and established their home, but in 1873 removed with their family to the United States, locating at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, two miles south of which village the father purchased a section of land. He was among the first colony of Russians to settle in Cottonwood county. He devoted his

earlier life principally to the ministry, but followed farming after coming here, although he preached occasionally. He and his wife died on the home place in this county. He assisted in organizing the first church in his vicinity. His family consisted of thirteen children, eleven sons and two daughters.

Frank Schroeder spent his boyhood in Russia and there attended school for four years, finishing his education after coming to Mountain Lake. He assisted his father to develop the home place here, on which he remained until his marriage, after which he operated the farm of his mother-in-law for two years. He then worked for twelve years for B. Rempel at Butterfield, Minnesota, in the lumber and elevator business. Upon leaving the employ of Mr. Rempel, he launched out for himself in the lumber, elevator and farm implement business, but two years later sold out and removed to Mountain Lake and for a period of eight years worked for Schaffer Brothers, who owned an elevator here, which he purchased of them on July 1, 1914, and has continued to operate the elevator with pronounced success. Some years ago he also dealt in real estate.

Mr. Schroeder was married in 1886 to Katherine Rempel, a native of Russia and a daughter of Peter and Anna (Penner) Rempel. To this union six children have been born, named as follow: Cornelius and Frank, twins, the former deceased; Peter, William, Bernhardt and Martha Marie.

Politically, Mr. Schroeder is a Republican and a member of the Mennonite church.

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### FREDERICK J. CARPENTER.

Frederick J. Carpenter, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Cottonwood county, now living retired at Windom, a stockholder and former director of the Windom National Bank and for years actively interested in the civic affairs of that city and this section of Minnesota in general, is a native of New York state, born at Hudson, July 20, 1848, son of Chauncey and Deborah (Worth) Carpenter, both natives of New York state, the former born on July 16, 1810, and the latter, March 28, 1819, who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Horace Goodill; Emily, who married William Lake and died in Chippewa county, Wisconsin; Margaret, who died at the age of fourteen years; Cornelia, who married Perry Norton, of Dodge county, this state,

and now lives at Claremont, that county, and Hannah, now deceased, who was the wife of Eugene Newton of Minneapolis. Chauncey Carpenter was a merchant in New York and in 1854 he sold his store and with his family came West, settling in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, for a time living retired at Kingston, that county, and later moving to a farm in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he died in 1868. His widow afterward made her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, in Cottonwood county, where she died in 1878.

Frederick J. Carpenter was about six years old when his parents moved to Wisconsin and he received his schooling at Kingston, that state. He was eighteen years old when the family moved onto the farm in Fond du Lac county and there he remained for six years, assisting in the development of the same. In 1872 he came to Minnesota and homesteaded a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, Carson township, Cottonwood county, at the same time buying, for six dollars an acre, eighty acres of railroad land adjoining. The first season he put out forty-one acres of flax, being one of the first farmers in this region to sow flax, and the product of that first crop almost paid for his land. Mr. Carpenter prospered in his farming operations from the very first and it was not long until he was being looked upon as one of the leading farmers of that part of the county. In 1888 he bought one-half of section 8 in Lakeside township and in 1899 bought one-half of section 9 in the same township, near Bingham lake. In the fall of that latter year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Windom, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very comfortably situated. Since moving to town Mr. Carpenter has sold all of his landholdings save the half section near Bingham lake and has made other investments. For years he has been a stockholder in the Windom National Bank and was formerly a member of the board of directors of that financial institution. Mr. Carpenter is a Republican and for years has given his close attention to local political affairs and has attended every county convention of his party in Cottonwood county. He was on the school board in Carson township when there were but four schools in that township. He was a member of the town board in both Carson and Lakeside townships and was treasurer of the school board at Bingham Lake; also a member of Windom school board for twelve years; also a member of the committee of five under whose direction the new school at Windom was established. He also superintended the building of the Masonic temple and Independent Order of Odd Fellow buildings. He



attends the Presbyterian church, of which his wife is a member, and has ever taken a proper part in local good works.

In 1877 Frederick J. Carpenter was united in marriage to Clara McNeal, of Blue Earth county, this state, and to that union three children were born, Alice, May 9, 1884, wife of Edward Hartz, of Leeds, North Dakota; Hattie, born September 5, 1885, who died on January 28, 1911, at the age of twenty-six years, and Frederick Chester, born October 26, 1887, employed by the state as weighmaster, who for four years was located at Minneapolis, but who has had his headquarters at Duluth since 1911. The mother of these children died on January 29, 1889, and on September 10, 1890, Mr. Carpenter married Georgia Schofield, born December 28, 1866, in Iowa, daughter of Aaron and Rhoda (Smith) Schofield, the latter of whom was born in Indiana, a cousin of Whitelaw Reid. Aaron Schofield was a native of England. He moved with his family from Iowa to Minnesota in 1873 and homesteaded eighty acres in section 28, Carson township, Cottonwood county, and there made his home until 1881, when he retired from the farm and moved to Windom, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives and where, on November 20, 1911, they celebrated their "golden wedding." Mrs. Schofield died on February 20, 1914, at the age of seventy-two years, and Mr. Schofield died on February 21, 1916, at the age of eighty-four years.

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### CARL JOHAN WENSTROM.

The late Carl Johan Wenstrom was for many years one of the leading business men of St. James. He began life poor in this world's goods, but rich in what is of far more value than material wealth—a sound mind and a sound body. He possessed concentration of purpose and energy that knew no restraint, keen foresight and the rare executive ability that made everything undertaken accomplish the purpose for which intended. He was also a man of uncompromising honesty.

Mr. Wenstrom was born in Sweden on July 14, 1861. He was a son of Swen Johan and Sophia Wenstrom, natives of Sweden, where they spent their earlier lives and were married. They came to America about 1867 and located at Rockford, Illinois, and in 1872 removed to Watonwan county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead, which they developed and on which they spent the rest of their lives, the mother's death occurring in 1883 at the age of fifty-five years. The father outlived her more than a



quarter of a century, dying in 1909 at the advanced age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of the following children: Claus lives in Watonwan county; Carl Johan, subject of this sketch; Emma is the wife of Nels Nelson of Watonwan county; Otto lives in St. James.

Carl J. Wenstrom was six years old when his parents brought him to America and he was eleven years old when he came with the family to Watonwan county. He received his education in the public schools here and in Illinois. He assisted his father on the home farm until he was a young man. He came to St. James in 1889 and worked as a drayman for awhile, then engaged in the furniture business, which proved to be quite successful. Through his industry, good management and fair and courteous dealings he built up a large trade with the town and surrounding country and carried an extensive stock of everything commonly found in up-to-date stores of this kind, and he continued in this line of endeavor until his death, which occurred on January 31, 1911. Since then the family has continued the business along the lines he inaugurated, retaining the original firm name, The St. James Furniture Company. He was also a stockholder in the Security State Bank, of which he was vice-president. He left his family well provided for, including a beautiful home. He was public-spirited and did much for the general welfare of his town and county. He served for some time as a member of the city council. He was a member of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church, to which his family also belong.

Mr. Wenstrom was married in 1890, to Nellie Nelson, who was born in Sweden in 1865. Her parents brought her to Rockford, Illinois, in 1867, where the family remained six years, coming to Watonwan county, Minnesota, in 1873, the father buying eighty acres, to which he later added another eighty in Adrian township, and here he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1907. Mrs. Nelson still lives on the homestead, being now eighty-three years of age. Politically, he was a Republican, and he was treasurer of the township board for several years. He belonged to the Swedish Lutheran church, to which his widow also belongs. Their children were named as follow: Nels lives in Watonwan county; Nellie, widow of Mr. Wenstrom of this memoir; Andrew lives in Watonwan county; Anna is the wife of Nels Johan Nelson of Watonwan county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wenstrom the following children were born: Reinhold, whose birth occurred in St. James in 1892, was graduated from the local high school and the Commercial College at St. Peter, and he is now assisting very ably in the management of the St. James furniture store; Esther, the second child, was educated in the local schools and is living at

home; Estella is now (1916) a junior in the St. James high school; Mabel is a sophomore in the St. James high school at this writing. Mr. Wenstrom died on January 31, 1911.

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### J. K. SONNESYN.

On of the most progressive citizens of Watonwan county is J. K. Sonnesyn, who has worked his way up from a modest beginning, having landed in the New World from a foreign strand, "A youth to fortune and to fame unknown." He has ascended the ladder step by step until he has reached a position of no mean importance, by his individual efforts, which have been practically unaided from boyhood.

Mr. Sonnesyn was born in Norway, April 15, 1858, and is a son of Christopher Nitter Sonnesyn and Ingrid Sonnesyn, both of whom lived and died in Norway. He grew to manhood and received his education in Norway. In 1882 he set sail for America, taking up his residence in Madelia, Minnesota, where he worked in the general mercantile establishment of Bisby, Olson & Boynton, remaining there until the spring of 1886, when he came to St. James and opened a general store and has been engaged in general mercantile pursuits ever since at the same stand. He was successful from the first and has enjoyed a large and steadily increasing patronage. He has carried at all seasons an extensive and carefully-selected stock of goods, and many of his first customers are still trading with him, which fact would indicate that they have received honest and courteous treatment. He has been very successful in a business way, and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of St. James, and has been a heavy stockholder and a director in the same since its organization, and is now president of the same. The pronounced success of this sound, conservative and popular institution has been due to his able management and commendable methods. In 1906 he organized the Twin-City Oil Company of Minneapolis and has since been president of the same, which has proven to be a most fortunate venture. He also organized the Sonnesyn-Sundt Company, a general mercantile corporation of Velva, North Dakota, in 1910, and has since been president of the same.

Mr. Sonnesyn was married in 1896 to Anna Sophia Fuhr, of Moorhead, Minnesota, and to their union four children have been born, namely: Carl, Ingrid, Ruth, Jenette. They are all living at this writing.

Politically, Mr. Sonnesyn is a Republican. He has been a member of

the local board of education for eight years, and president of the same for the past five years. He has done much to encourage better schools, and, in fact, he is one of the most influential of our citizens for the general welfare and upbuilding of St. James. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a Knight Templar. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### DAVID P. LANGLEY.

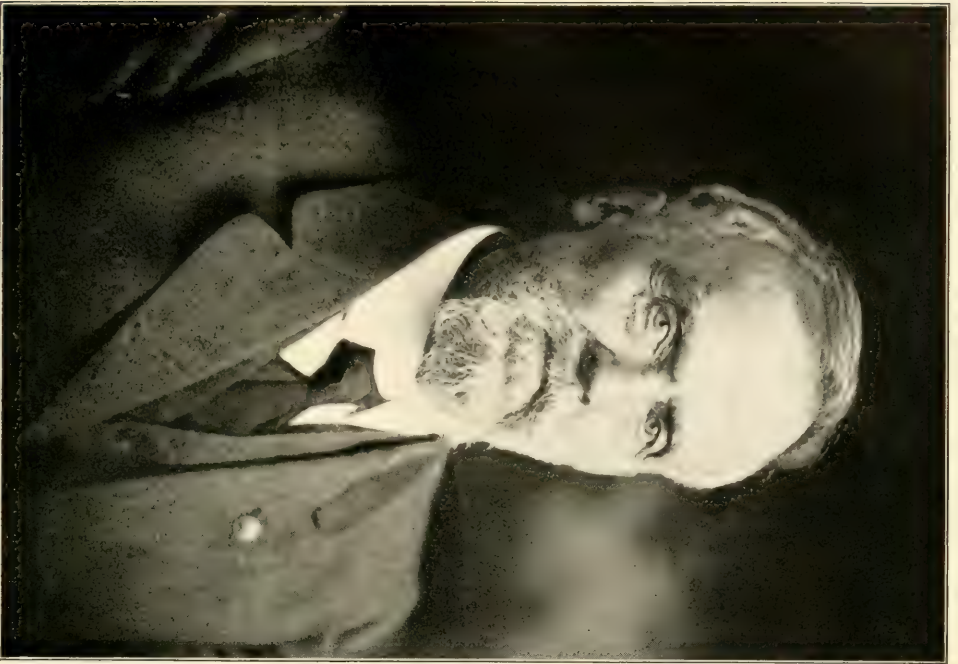
David P. Langley was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1840, a son of James and Jane (Weston) Langley, who were both born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania. James Langley spent the early part of his life as a farmer in Erie county, Pennsylvania. In 1854 he moved to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming until 1867, when he retired from active work and removed to Carlinville, where he spent the rest of his days. There were nine children in this family: Wilson S. died at the age of sixteen; John W., James W., Andrew J., Eunice Mary, David F., Russell L., Franceina L. and Cynthia A.

David P. Langley was educated in the public schools of Erie county, Pennsylvania, and also attended school after the removal of his father to Illinois. During his younger years he worked with his father on the farm and started farming for himself while a young man. In 1880 he left his Illinois home and came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and located on a farm one mile south of Bingham lake. He began farming this land and continued until 1900, when he bought a small tract of land within the corporate limits of Bingham Lake, which he cultivated until 1912. At that time he sold this land and removed to the village, where he has since continued to live.

In April, 1870, David P. Langley and Nancy J. Jackson were united in marriage. Mrs. Langley is the daughter of Hiram and Ruth (Blasdel) Jackson, of Dearborn county, Indiana, who later settled in central Illinois in 1855, where they remained all their lives. To this union nine children have been born: Minnie E., James W. died at the age of five years; Jessie E., Charles H., William P., Ernest J., Harry L., Erma L. and Florence. Mrs. Langley is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On August 21, 1861, at the call of President Lincoln for volunteers for the suppression of the rebellion, Mr. Langley enlisted in Company A, Thirty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until





MR. AND MRS. DAVID P. LANGLEY.





December 6, 1865. This regiment was a part of the army under General Grant operating in western Tennessee and in Mississippi, in 1862 and 1863, an army that rendered a most distinguished service, and achieved some of the most noted victories in the history of the Civil War. Mr. Langley followed the fortunes of his regiment in all these campaigns and contributed a soldier's part in the battles and victories in which the regiment participated. Altogether, he participated in sixteen battles, and numerous minor engagements that were often sharp and exciting, but are not recorded among the great battles of the Civil War. Among the great battles in which Mr. Langley was engaged were the battles around Vicksburg, during the siege resulting in the capture of that stronghold; the battles of Jackson and Champion's Hill, the battle of Mobile, and the many others in which that part of the army was engaged.

Mr. Langley's record as a soldier is one of which he has every reason to be proud, a heritage of honor conferred upon his children which cannot be too highly regarded, a service to his country which cannot be compensated by any pension allowance.

In view of this supreme manifestation of loyalty and patriotism in the hour of his country's need, it would seem superfluous to add that Mr. Langley is a Republican and an ardent advocate of the party principles to which Lincoln devoted his life service. As a citizen, Mr. Langley is held in the highest esteem by the people of the community in which he lives. He served as county commissioner from 1894 to 1902, eight years. In this official capacity, as in all other duties to which he has been called, he was faithful and efficient. His fraternal associations are with the Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is an active and influential member. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### DAVID A. NOBLE.

David A. Noble, for years a well-known retired farmer, of Windom, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the most substantial citizens of Cottonwood county, is a native of Canada, born on December 17, 1843, son and only child of Robert and Mary (Collins) Noble, the former of whom died in Canada in 1851. His widow and her son came over into the United States about 1855 and settled in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, where she died in 1870, near Portage.

David A. Noble was about eleven years old when he went to Wisconsin with his widowed mother, and he grew to manhood in La Crosse county, completing his schooling in the public schools of that county. On December 17, 1861, his seventeenth birthday, he enlisted in Company B, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, for service during the Civil War, and served for two days less than four years, being mustered out at Austin, Texas, November 15, 1865, receiving his final discharge at Madison, Wisconsin, December 15, 1865. His mother died at her sister's home near Portage, Wisconsin, in 1870, and in 1874 he came over into Minnesota and settled in Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since. Upon arriving in this state Mr. Noble homesteaded a quarter section in Amo township, at the same time taking a timber claim on a quarter section adjoining, and set about developing the same. That farm of three hundred and twenty acres he still owns, as well as a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Lakeside township, about three miles from Windom. In 1879 Mr. Noble married and established his home on his homestead place in Amo township. For about a year after their marriage, Mr. Noble and his wife lived in a sod house, but they presently built a more substantial home, and it was not long until their affairs began to prosper. When they started housekeeping they had neither chairs nor a table, boxes serving in lieu thereof, but that condition did not last long and after awhile they had a very comfortable home and were looked upon as among the substantial residents of that neighborhood. Mr. Noble took a proper part in the civic affairs of his home township and for years was active in Republican politics, serving for some time as assessor of Amo township. During his residence in Windom he also has served as a member of the council. In addition to the farm lands at present owned by Mr. Noble, he formerly owned two hundred and forty acres one-half mile out of Windom and twenty-seven acres within the corporation and at one time owned land in North Dakota. About 1895 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved into Windom, where he ever since has made his home, long having been one of the best-known men in that city. For nearly fifteen years Mr. Noble has been superintendent of a part of the stock exhibit at the county fair. He has taken an active part in general agricultural affairs and for some time was in charge of the Cottonwood county exhibit at the Minnesota state fair.

On March 12, 1879, David A. Noble was united in marriage to Mary Cuthbert, who was born in Carseburn, Scotland, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Ogg) Cuthbert, who came to this country with their family in 1871 and located in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, later moving to Buena Vista county, Iowa, where they spent their last days, Alexander Cuthbert

dying on May 17, 1900, at the age of seventy-nine years, and his wife, October 13, 1906, at the age of eighty-nine. Alexander Cuthbert and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Noble was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Isabel, William, David (deceased), Alexander (deceased) and Eliza. To Mr. and Mrs. Noble six children have been born, all of whom are living, as follow: Myrtle Eliza, Iva Mary, Jessie Isabel, a graduate of the Winona Normal School; Geneva Ida, Bertha Vera, also a graduate of the Winona Normal, and David Alexander, who was graduated from Ames College with the class of 1916. The Nobles are members of the Presbyterian church and take a warm interest in all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of the community at large.

Mr. Noble and a man named G. B. Rice, during the early settlement, in order to get trees for their groves, went to Mankato, Kasota and St. Peters and pulled the small trees to plant in their tree-claim, as they did not have money enough to buy trees. They were gone two weeks on this trip, and they secured enough trees for their claim.

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#### REV. EDWARD SAVAGE.

The family of the late Rev. Edward Savage, for many years one of the best-known clergymen in this part of the state, is of French Huguenot stock, the first of that line in America having been Capt. John Savage, who crossed the water and established his family in the English colonies in America in 1690. Rev. Edward Savage was a native of New York state, but had lived in the West since his boyhood and was a resident of Windom and the neighborhood of that city almost from the day of the beginning of a social order hereabout. He founded the Presbyterian church at Windom and was widely influential in the missionary movement in this section of Minnesota in early days, continuing active in the ministry hereabout until his death on January 4, 1910.

Edward Savage was born at Ogdensburg, New York, September 16, 1841, son of the Rev. John A. and Eliza (Turner) Savage, both natives of that state, the former born in 1799 and the latter in 1802. The Rev. John A. Savage was a minister of note in the Presbyterian church and upon his election as president of Carroll College at Waukesha, Wisconsin, removed to that city in 1850 and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1866. His widow survived him many years, her last days



being spent at Waukesha, where she died in 1883. Edward Savage was graduated from Carroll College in 1860 and on September 13, 1862, enlisted as a private in Company B, Twenty-eighth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged on March 26, 1863. In 1865 he entered the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1868.

Following his ordination to the ministry of the Presbyterian church, the Rev. Edward Savage returned to Waukesha and in that same year was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian church at Jackson, Minnesota. In 1870 he married and the year following, in 1871, he came to this part of the state and located at the then growing village of Windom, where he organized the Presbyterian church, the date of organization being October 11, 1871. For some years he remained as pastor of the church at Windom and after a number of years as an independent missionary he accepted a call to Bingham Lake, where he remained for several years. In the meantime he had homesteaded a tract of eighty acres near Windom, to which he presently added an adjoining "eighty," and there established his permanent home. From the beginning of his pastoral service in this state, Mr. Savage ever was active in missionary work and his travels in that connection took him to points widely separated throughout this section of the state. In 1881 he temporarily retired from the pulpit and returned to Waukesha, but shortly afterward was made pastor of the Cottage Grove Presbyterian church there, remaining there until after his mother's death in 1883, after which for a time he was pastor of the church at Weyauwega, Wisconsin, but in 1886 he returned to Windom and resumed his residence on his homestead, where he remained the rest of his life, filling meanwhile the pulpits at Red Rock and Bingham Lake, having been, with the exception of the five years spent in Wisconsin, continuously engaged in the gospel ministry in Jackson and Cottonwood counties from the time of his ordination until the day of his death. Politically, Mr. Savage was a Prohibitionist and was ever active in the cause of temperance and righteousness.

The Rev. Edward Savage was twice married. On October 13, 1870, at Delafield, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, he was united in marriage to Margaret A. Robertson, to which union were born four children, Donald R., John A., Eliza Turner and Edward W., all of whom are living. The mother of these children died on July 3, 1903, and on July 16, 1907, Mr. Savage married Nora A. Schofield, for years one of Windom's best-known school teachers, who survives him.

## JOHN E. NELSON.

John E. Nelson is a native Norwegian, born in Norway, August 30, 1863. He is a son of Ole and Inger (Danielson) Nelson, who were also natives of Norway.

Ole Nelson came to America in 1884 and located in Windom, Cottonwood county, Minnesota. Here he opened a shop and engaged in the harness business, which he continued until his death, which occurred in September, 1901, at the age of sixty-nine years. He was the father of eleven children: John (deceased), Matilda, Adolph Daniel, Carl, engaged in the hardware business in Windom, Minnesota; John E., Allta, died in Buffalo, Minnesota, in 1915, aged forty-eight years; Ohtda died in Norway, aged thirteen; Nels (deceased), Nels (deceased), Nels (deceased), and Rolf, living in Sioux City, Minnesota.

John E. Nelson was educated in the public schools of Norway. While a young man he went to sea as a sailor and followed this occupation for six years. He made trips to England, South America, Mexico, Cuba and many other places, and experienced all the hardships and dangers of a sailor's life, while engaged in this business. In the spring of 1884, then not twenty-one years of age, he came with the rest of the family to America and located in Windom, Cottonwood county, Minnesota. Here he was employed in farming for about three years, and then worked at the same business for about two years at Heron Lake, in Jackson county. In 1888 he went to Washington, then a territory, and was employed by the Puget Sound in scaling logs for about three years. In 1891 he returned to Windom and opened up a harness business, which he continued in that place until September, 1900, when he removed his shop to Westbrook. Here he has since continued the business, handling a complete stock of everything in the harness line.

Mr. Nelson was married to Nettie Tolefson in 1887, and to this union four children have been born: Maude L., Howard E., Phoebe and James, who died at Windom aged six years. They are members of the Baptist church; Mr. Nelson is one of the trustees at the present time. He has served ten years on the school board, and has been president of the board for nine years. He has also served as a member of the village council.

Mr. Nelson is also largely interested in the banking business. At the present time he is a stockholder and vice-president of the First National Bank of Westbrook; vice-president of the State Bank, at Dovray, Murray

county, and a director of the Farmers State Bank, at Stroden, Cottonwood county. He has also had some dealings in real estate, and has some valuable real-estate holdings at the present time. In 1903 he built the splendid home in which he now lives. He is giving his children the opportunity of obtaining a good education, an opportunity which he, himself, did not have in his youthful years. He is deeply interested in the promotion of schools and educational advantages in the community, and as a member of the school board, on which he has had so long service, he has been largely instrumental in building up the schools and in bringing them to the high state of efficiency they now have.

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### SULLIVAN & GUSHMAN.

Edd T. Sullivan and Leo A. Gushman, publishers of the *Journal-Gazette* of St. James, are doing a most commendable work in the general upbuilding of Watonwan county, their popular newspaper being a genuine booster for this locality.

Mr. Sullivan was born in Mantorville, Minnesota, September 29, 1878, and received his education in the schools of that village, graduating from the high school there in 1896. He learned the printer's trade in the office of the *Express* and in 1901 went to North Dakota, where he worked at various places until January, 1907, when he returned to his home county and state and purchased a half interest in the *Dodge County Record*, at Dodge Center, where he remained for two years. He was thereafter connected with various papers in Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana, returning to Minnesota in June, 1914, and locating at Butterfield, Watonwan county, securing employment on the *Advocate*. In November of that year he came to St. James and began work on the *Journal-Gazette*, as foreman. On December 1, 1915, he and Leo A. Gushman leased this plant and have since been editors and publishers of this excellent newspaper, which is gaining rapidly in circulation, has been greatly improved from a mechanical standpoint and is recognized as a valuable advertising medium. They are both capable and well trained newspaper men and are giving eminent satisfaction to their patrons. Mr. Sullivan is a Republican. He is unmarried.

Leo A. Gushman was born in Stryker, Ohio, October 21, 1891. He came to St. James in 1914, and engaged in the advertising business, traveling throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas until he formed a partnership with



Mr. Sullivan in December, 1915, and leased the *Journal-Gazette*. He is unmarried, and is a Republican. He is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Monen) Gushman. The father was born in Ohio, his parents having immigrated to that state from Alsace-Lorraine, formerly a province of France. Joseph's parents were Alexis and Mary (Duprez) Gushman, and his grandfather fought under Napoleon. The paternal grandfather of Leo A. Gushman died at Wauseon, Ohio, about 1901 at the age of eighty-two years, his wife dying two years later in 1903, when about seventy-five years of age. The maternal grandparents, Patrick and Elizabeth (Gebbie) Monen, were natives of Ireland, from which country they came to Ohio in 1865, locating at Stryker, later moving to Defiance, that state. The grandmother died in 1906 when about seventy-six years of age at Toledo. Grandfather's death occurred in December, 1915, at Toledo, at the unusual age of ninety-five years. He was born on March 17, 1821. The father of Leo A. Gushman is a master mechanic and is employed by S. M. Jones & Company of Toledo, Ohio. His family consists of two children, Jeanette, and Leo A. The latter received his education in the public schools of Toledo, Ohio, and was graduated from St. John's College (high school department), and attended the college one year, after which he was in the employ of the Woolson-Spice Company for four years. He was then in the advertising business two years before coming to St. James.

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#### MICHAEL L. FISCH.

One of the enterprising and successful merchants of Cottonwood county, Minnesota, is Michael L. Fisch, of Windom. By his thrift and honest dealings he has built up a large trade with the town and surrounding country.

Mr. Fisch was born in Houston county, this state, July 19, 1866, and there he grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools. He followed civil engineering which line of work he followed three or four years in his earlier career, then engaged in mercantile pursuits in Faribault county, Minnesota, where he remained until 1899 when he came to Windom, where he has since been engaged in general mercantile pursuits, carrying a large and well-selected stock at all seasons. Five years ago his store was destroyed by fire, but with characteristic energy he soon rebuilt on a more substantial basis and has a large and well-arranged store. He has



been very successful in a business way, and besides his store he is a stockholder in the Windom National Bank, of which he is also a director.

Mr. Fisch is a public-spirited man and has done much for the general upbuilding of Windom, whose interests he has very much at heart. He has been mayor of the town two terms. Politically, he is a Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Fisch was married in 1891 to Mary Pietruss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pietruss, both natives of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Fisch three children have been born: Adrian, Mildred, and Marian.

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### HENRY E. HANSON.

A thriving banking business is being conducted at Windom by Henry E. Hanson, who understands thoroughly every phase of his chosen line of endeavor and tries in every way to please his many patrons. Mr. Hanson was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, September 18, 1860. He is a son of Elling and Guro (Helgeson) Hanson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, immigrating to America in 1848, locating on Rock Prairie, Rock county, Wisconsin, where they remained until about 1851, when they removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where the father died in 1860. The mother married again, and the family removed to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and in 1872 came to Ann township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where Henry E. Hanson's step-father, Ole Kleven, entered a homestead which he developed and on which he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Three children were born to Elling and Guro Hanson, namely: Mary, deceased; Anna, who lives in Fillmore county, and Henry E., the subject of this sketch.

Henry E. Hanson received his early education in the public schools of La Crosse, Wisconsin, later attending school in Cottonwood county, Minnesota. He started out in life as a laborer on farms and with threshing machines, then engaged in railroad construction work for two years, later engaged in farming for himself. In 1889 he was elected register of deeds, which office he held with satisfaction to all concerned for a period of eighteen years, or until January, 1906. The following autumn he was elected to the state Senate, in which body he made a splendid record. In 1907 he was appointed postmaster at Windom, which position he held until July, 1915. He was state Senator during the sessions of the Legislature from

1907 to 1909. In 1907 he organized the Farmers State Bank at Windom, of which he became cashier, continuing as such until in January, 1915, then became president, which position he still occupies. His rare business acumen, sound judgment, recognized industry and honesty have combined to make this one of the sound, safe and popular banks of this section of the state. He is also interested in general farming, owning a fine farm of eight hundred and eighty acres in Ann township, which he claims to be the second best farm in Cottonwood county. It is under a high state of cultivation and improvement, including large, substantial buildings, with every modern convenience. He formerly bred Shorthorn cattle, also Berkshire hogs. He now rents his land.

On May 6, 1889, Henry E. Hanson was married to Gina Peterson, of Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, daughter of Paul Peterson, a part of whose farm is now within the limits of the town of Westbrook. To this union the following children have been born: Emma Pauline is the wife of Frank Strehlow; Clarence M., Hazel, Irene is the wife of Frank Barr, and Grace.

Politically, Mr. Hanson is a Republican. He has long been active and influential in public affairs, and is the recognized leader of his party in this section of Minnesota. He has done much for the general development of his town and community and is one of the most substantial and best-known citizens of Cottonwood county. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Arcanum and the Sons of Norway.

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### WILLIAM HENRY DUMMETT.

William Henry Dummett, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, chairman of the board of supervisors of that township and proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Bingham Lake, is a native of Iowa, born on a pioneer farm in Franklin township, O'Brien county, that state, February 26, 1878, son of William Henry and Mary E. (Daily) Dummett, the former a native of the state of New Jersey and the latter of Ireland, she having come to this country with her parents when a child.

The senior William H. Dummett was born in 1841, son of Henry J.

and Christina (Westkett) Dummett, the former a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1809, who was a glass-blower by trade. Later he moved to Ohio and still later, in 1856, moved with his family to Iowa, which then was being rapidly opened to settlement, and settled on a farm in Benton county, where he spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom but two are now living. William H. Dummett, father of the subject of this sketch, was about fifteen years old when his parents settled in Iowa and there he grew to manhood. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company H, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and served until that command was mustered out at Sioux City, Iowa, October 17, 1865. Although Mr. Dummett participated in many hard-fought battles and underwent many trying experiences, he came through the war unwounded and with health unimpaired. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Benton county, Iowa, and there, in 1869, was married. In 1871 he and his wife moved up into the northwestern part of Iowa and settled in O'Brien county. There, in Franklin township, he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and established his home, later increasing his farm to two hundred and eighty acres and spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring in 1915. He was a Republican, an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic and he and his family were supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom five still survive, namely: Mary E., who married Frank Merrill and lives in Iowa; Sarah, who married William Brahan and also lives in Iowa; Elmer B., who lives in Iowa; William H., the subject of this sketch, and George, who is also a resident of Minnesota.

The junior William H. Dummett was reared on the pioneer farm in O'Brien county, Iowa, receiving his schooling in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home and as a young man started farming there on his own account. In 1902 he married and established his home in his native county, where he continued to live until 1909, in which year he disposed of his interests there and came to Minnesota, settling in Cottonwood county. He bought a quarter of a section of land in Lakeside township and there has made his home ever since. The place was but partially improved when Mr. Dummett took possession and he has erected new buildings and otherwise improved the farm, bringing it up to a high standard of cultivation. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done well with his Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. Mr. Dummett is a Republican and since



coming to this state has given his thoughtful attention to political affairs. He served as a member of the school board for three years and is now serving as chairman of the board of supervisors in Lakeside township.

In 1902, in O'Brien county, Iowa, William H. Dummett was united in marriage to Bertha May DuBois and to this union four children have been born, Forrest Wayne, Averil, Doris and Berdine. Mr. and Mrs. Dummett take a proper part in the general good works of their community and are ever ready to promote such movements as are designed to advance the common weal hereabout. Mr. Dummett holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America, the Yeomen and the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### CHARLEY T. CROWLEY.

The smokers of Watonwan county and vicinity who enjoy a good cigar are not compelled to use a brand made in Cuba or some other distant country, for they may procure excellent cigars manufactured by Charley T. Crowley at St. James.

Mr. Crowley was born near Westside, Iowa, December 6, 1872. He is a son of Winfield Scott and Alice (Grimley) Crowley. The father was born in Illinois in 1847; the mother was born at Huntley, that state, in 1857. They grew up, attended school and were married in their native state. After spending a short time in Iowa they removed to Chicago, where the father engaged in the milk business until 1890. He also engaged in the real estate business for a number of years, but is now living retired. His wife died in 1896. He came to Watonwan county in the year 1889 and has since made his home in St. James. He was a member of the city council for some time, and also chairman of the county commissioners for sixteen years. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and attends the Presbyterian church. His family consists of two children, namely: Charley T., subject of this sketch; and Florence, who became the wife of Floyd Hall, is deceased. One child, a daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall. After the death of his first wife, Winfield S. Crowley married Rose Morris, by which union one son, Winfield Scott, Jr., was born in 1904.

Charley T. Crowley was educated in the Skinner public schools of Chicago and a business college in that city, later studied at Ames Agricul-



tural College in Iowa. He came to St. James in 1890, where he obtained work in the hotel conducted by W. W. and E. A. Gibbs, with whom he remained five years, then worked two years in a drug store and two years in railroad service. In 1890 he began manufacturing cigars in St. James which he has continued with pronounced success to the present time, having built up an extensive trade. His factory is well equipped and an average of seven highly skilled workmen is employed by him. He made his first batch of cigars for Winfield Scott Hammond. He makes the popular brand known as "Our Governor," a ten-cent cigar; also the "Governor," a five-cent cigar of excellent quality.

Mr. Crowley was married in April, 1897, to Ada Forsyth, of St. James, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Winfield George, born in 1901; and Alice May, born in 1904. He and his family attend the Episcopal church. Politically, he is a Republican. He is a member of the city council at this writing, which position he has held for ten years. He has been a member of the local fire department for twenty-one years. He was captain in the same for some time and is now chief. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Royal Arcanum, Modern Woodmen of America and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Mr. Crowley is also engaged in the sale of automobiles, handling the Ford in this county. He is in partnership with Schoffman, Crowley & Veltun.

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### WILLIAM SARTORIUS.

One of the farmers of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, who has been a close observer of modern methods of tilling the soil and is a student of whatever pertains to his chosen life work, is William Sartorius, and he has therefore met with encouraging success all along the line. He was born in Germany, March 11, 1850, and is a son of John and Kate (Sueshen) Sartorius, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, were married, spent their active lives on a farm and died there. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Amel, Katherina, Jennie, John are all deceased; Fannie is living; William, the subject of this sketch; Margaret is deceased.

William Sartorius grew to manhood in his native land and there attended the public schools, working on his father's farm during crop sea-

sons. He served over three years in the German army, and was with his regiment in France in 1871 during the Franco-German War, but saw no active service. He came to America in 1882 and located near Freeport, Illinois, where he remained twenty years, working out for wages eleven years and engaged in farming for himself nine years on rented land. He then removed to O'Brien county, Iowa, and rented a farm for five years, buying one hundred and fifty-nine acres in the fall of 1906, in Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, the place on which he now lives, moving here on January 10, 1907. He has added many important improvements, especially to the buildings and has a good farm. In connection with general farming he raises various kinds of live stock, making a specialty of Chester White hogs and mixed Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Sartorius was married in 1876, to Johanna Gertges, a native of Germany and a daughter of Frederick and Gertie (Meyer) Gertges, both natives of Germany where they spent their lives on a farm. To these parents seven children were born, namely: A son, who died in infancy; Helna, Anna, Gertie, Katherina, Gertrude, and Johanna, who married the subject of this sketch.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sartorius the following children were born: John and Fred both were born in Germany and died in Illinois; Kate is living; Dina died in Illinois, as did also Katherine; John is living; Fred is at home; William and Edward are the two youngest.

Mr. Sartorius and family belong to the Lutheran church.

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#### HERMAN W. HAISLET.

The name of Herman W. Haislet, successful publisher, of St. James and the present representative of Watonwan county to the Legislature, needs no introduction to the readers of this work.

Mr. Haislet was born in Decorah, Iowa, September 17, 1875, and is a son of George W. and Emma Caroline (Wood) Haislet, who came from the East and settled in Howard county, Iowa, the father establishing the first newspaper at Howard Center (now Cresco). Himself and his brothers, Samuel and Frank were the promoters of the newspapers in northeastern Iowa. George W. Haislet remained at Decorah for a number of years, his death occurring there in 1880, his widow surviving until 1883.

He was a Republican. His wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. Their family consisted of eleven children, only three of whom are living at this writing, namely: Fred W., of Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Katie Irene is the wife of Robert Mapson, of El Modena, California; Herman W., the subject of this sketch.

After the death of his mother Herman W. Haislet went to live with an uncle, Edward W. Wood, publisher of the *Democrat* at Lyons, Rice county, Kansas. There he attended school and worked in his uncle's printing office until he was fourteen years old, when he went to Frederick, Kansas, where he was employed four years on the *News*, then became a cowboy for two summers, and worked on newspapers during the winter months. He came to Decorah, Iowa, in the winter of 1897, arriving on January 1st, and worked on the *Decorah Public Opinion* for some time. While there he married, in 1898, Bessie D. Houck, and to their union one son was born, Donovan Herman Haislet, whose birth occurred in October, 1899, and is now a student in second year high school.

After his marriage, Mr. Haislet moved to Ridgeway, Iowa, and established the *Record*, which he conducted for about eighteen months, and in November, 1901, he came to St. James and secured employment in the office of the *Plaindealer* where he worked until December, 1901, when he took charge of the *Butterfield Advocate*, and with the exception of the years 1905 to 1907 he has been a residence of Watonwan county ever since coming here. In November, 1914, he was elected to the Legislature on the non-partisan ticket and has made a commendable record in this office. He was chairman of the legislative expense committee and had charge of all expenditures made for supplies of Legislature. He made a record of economy not surpassed in twenty years. He is a man of force and character, and in the face of considerable opposition has won out, when he knew he was right, on many occasions. He is outspoken and not afraid to let everybody know just where he stands on all important questions affecting the people. He has made his paper a strong factor in the general welfare of his community, and it has been a success from a business standpoint under his able management. He was justice of the peace at Butterfield for a period of nine years, and gave eminent satisfaction in the same, his decisions being noted for their fairness and clear interpretation of the law. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he took an active interest in the rate fight in 1912 and 1913.

In December, 1913, he established the *St. James Independent* in part-



nership with Fred W. Haislet, buying his partner's interest in June, 1915, and has since been sole editor and publisher. The paper is gaining rapidly in circulation and is being recognized as a valuable advertising medium.

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### GEORGE P. SIVERTSON.

Among the Norwegians who have come to Minnesota, and there have been many thousands, and have, through their industry and good management acquired a comfortable competency so that they are enabled to spend their old age in peace and plenty is George P. Sivertson, now living in honorable retirement in Westbrook, Cottonwood county.

Mr. Sivertson was born in Norway, April 3, 1849, and is a son of Sivert and Ellen (Pederson) Sivertson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, were married and established their home. The paternal grandparents, Sigval and Elizabeth (Total) Sivertson lived and died in Norway on a farm, as did also the maternal grandparents, Benjamin Pederson and wife, and also the parents of G. P. Sivertson lived in the same community as the grandparents, spending their lives on a farm. They had three sons and two daughters, namely: George P., Conrad, Simon, Abel are all three living in Norway; Sarah died in that country. Simon is an officer in the Norwegian army.

George P. Sivertson was educated in his native land, and when twenty-one years of age came to the United States, in 1867, and located in Alamakee county, Iowa, where he remained until 1871 when he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead in Highwater township, which he developed into a fine farm and carried on general farming successfully, until he retired from active life and moved to the village of Westbrook in the year 1902. During the two years of the grasshopper plague which destroyed his crops he was compelled to leave his farm and work out. He homesteaded eighty acres, later buying eighty acres of railroad land.

Mr. Sivertson was married on April 12, 1876, to Martha Langland, who was born in Norway, November 6, 1854, daughter of Knute and Anna (Bjargo) Langland, from which country she came to America in early life with her parents, the family locating in Madison, Wisconsin; then to Winneshiek county, Iowa, one year; then moved to Jackson county, Minnesota; later went to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and in 1871 came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where they remained to the end of their lives. The



mother, two sons and two daughters were massacred by the savages, the father and two daughters, Julia and Martha, escaping. Mr. Langland bought railroad land in Westbrook township. During the massacre, Martha was a little girl and was hid in a cornfield, escaping notice, but her sister Julia, who was tomahawked, survived. Mr. Langland died on his farm in Westbrook township some years ago.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sivertson seven children have been born, namely: Knute, John, Peter, Gertrude, Anna, and Mabel. They are all living at this writing except Josephine, the youngest, who died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Sivertson is a Democrat. While living on the farm he served as school director for some time, and also was road boss occasionally. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

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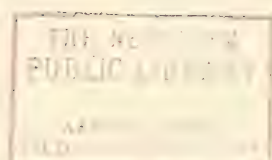
### JOHN HENDERSON.

A diversity of interests has been the outgrowth of the natural conditions found in Cottonwood county. It has been discovered that certain portions of her soil are well suited to be manufactured into brick and tile, and among those who are taking advantage of this fact is John Henderson, of Bingham Lake, formerly a banker.

John Henderson was born in County Donegal, Ireland, June 22, 1848, a son of William and Mary (Russell) Henderson, who immigrated to America and settled in Tama county, Iowa. William Henderson was a farmer and died in Iowa. Mrs. Mary Henderson died at Rhinebeck, Iowa. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Iowa and there received a common school education. He began his active career in the banking business and conducted a bank at Goldfield, Iowa, for a period of fifteen years with gratifying results. It was first a private bank, then became the First National Bank of Goldfield. He was made president upon the organization of the institution and continued in the same position during his residence in Goldfield. He removed to Bingham Lake, Minnesota, in 1902, where he started a private bank, which two years later was converted into the First State Bank of Bingham Lake, with Mr. Henderson as president, which position he retained until 1915, when he sold out to J. A. Redding. His industry, sound, conservative and honest methods made this institution a decided success. In 1913 he took over the brick and tile manufacturing plant at Bingham Lake, which he has conducted on an extensive scale to



JOHN HENDERSON.



the present time, his products finding a very ready market owing to their superior quality. He also owns a valuable and well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres which lies immediately south of the village. He also owns seventy acres within the village limits, and on this he makes his home, having an attractive and modernly appointed residence. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the leading men of affairs of the county.

John Henderson was married in 1882 to Mary Elizabeth Small. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have no children of their own, but they adopted a child, Victor Rodgers, of Bingham Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson are members of the Presbyterian church and are active workers in the church.

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### GUSTAV MULLER.

Gustav Muller was born in Galicia, Austria, April 26, 1876, a son of Henry Muller and Magdalene (Lindscheid) Muller, both natives of Galicia, Austria.

Henry Muller followed the occupation of a blacksmith, and also engaged in farming in Austria. He came to America in 1880, and located in Cottonwood county, in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. The year following his coming to that place he removed to Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county, and took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres of government land. Here he made his home for the remainder of his life. He died in 1900; his wife survived him and is now living at Reedley, California. She was the mother of twelve children: Peter, Christina, deceased; Gustav, died young; Edmond, deceased; Henry, deceased; Leona, deceased; Clara, Fridolm, Gustav, our subject; Theodore, Arthur, Herbert. The father and mother were members of the Mennonite church.

Gustav Muller, our subject, was educated in the public schools of Rose Hill, township, working on his father's farm during his early years. At the age of fourteen he left the farm and was employed as a clerk in the store of J. W. Benson & Company, at Heron Lake, Minnesota. He was in this employment for two years and then took a business course at Wilder. He worked for about one year for H. P. Lewis, at Fulda, Minnesota. In 1894 he came to Windom and entered the employ of G. A. Peterson & Company, clothiers, remaining with them until 1905, at which time he, with



F. T. Anton, bought the clothing stock of R. R. Jennes, of Windom. This partnership continued until December, 1913, when Mr. Anton died; since that time Mr. Muller has conducted the business alone, dealing in a general line of clothing, men's furnishings and shoes.

Mr. Muller was married, in 1900, to Anna M. Anton, daughter of Ole Anton. Five children have been born to this union: Roland H., Alden G., Alice M., Waldo F., deceased, and one infant, deceased. Mr. Muller is a Socialist in politics. He has served as a trustee on the city council, and is at present mayor of the village. He is a member of the American Order of Woodmen, and also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### THOMAS OFFERDAL.

Thomas Offerdal was born at Long Lake, Watonwan county, July 30, 1875. He is of Norwegian ancestry, his parents being among the large number of Norwegian families who found a home in this, and in other counties of Minnesota, in the early history of the state, and who contributed so large a part in the state's physical and social development.

The parents of the subject of this sketch were Ole and Mary (Jensen) Offerdal, both natives of Norway. The father was a farmer in his native country. He came with his wife to America in 1867, and followed the footsteps of other of his neighbors and countrymen to Minnesota. In the case of these worthy emigrants "following the footsteps," is not altogether a figurative expression, for their means to pay travel expenses were exhausted when they reached Mankato, and they walked all the way from that place to Watonwan county, Minnesota, carrying a small child. Their meager belongings were hauled by Hans Johnson Berdell, who was fortunate enough to own a yoke of oxen. They found a desirable location in Long Lake township, Watonwan county where they took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. Here they established a home and lived the rest of their lives. They both died the same year, 1910. They were a frugal, industrious people and their industry was rewarded with a very desirable competence. They were the parents of seven children: Jens, Sarah, Thomas, Mary, Neliuss, Carl and Emma. They were both members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Thomas Offerdal was educated in the public schools of Long Lake township, Watonwan county, and in the high school at St. James, from

which he was graduated in 1892. During his school days he worked with his father on the home farm, and afterward engaged in farming on the same on his own account. From 1889 to 1914 he bought grain and conducted a general store at Echols, Watonwan county. In 1914 he moved to St. James and the following year he engaged in the real-estate business, and also acted as agent for the Studebaker automobile. In 1915 he was elected vice-president of the Citizens National Bank, of St. James, and in September, of that year, he became actively engaged in the business of the bank.

Mr. Offerdal was married, in 1901, to Hilda Schoyen, daughter of H. M. Schoyen of Long Lake township, Watonwan county, Minnesota. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### JACOB HENGTGEN.

Jacob Hengtgen, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-three acres lying in sections 22 and 27 of Storden township, and actively identified with the general affairs of that community, is a native of Iowa, born on a pioneer farm in Jackson county, that state, January 22, 1852, son of Barney and Anna (Rystoffer) Hengtgen, natives of Germany and early settlers in that part of Iowa.

Barney Hengtgen left his native land and came to the United States when a young man, locating in Jackson county, Iowa, in 1847, thus having been among the pioneers of that county, and there, some years later married Anna Rystoffer, who came to this country with her parents from Germany in 1849, the family locating in Jackson county, Iowa. To that union four children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born the others being Anna, Nicholas and Maggie. Following the death of the mother of these children, Barney Hengtgen married Mary Thyson and to that union six children were born, Theodore, Michael, Peter, Elizabeth, Margaret and Katherine. Barney Hengtgen remained a farmer all his life, his death occurring on his home farm in Iowa in 1911. He was a member of the Catholic church and his children were reared in that faith.

Jacob Hengtgen was reared on his father's homestead farm in Iowa and received his schooling in the primitive school in the neighborhood of his home. As a young man he started farming on his own account in Plymouth

county, Iowa, and there he remained until 1909, in which year he disposed of his holdings there and came to Minnesota, settling in Cottonwood county, where he bought his present farm of two hundred and thirty-three acres in Storden township and has ever since made his home there. Mr. Hengtgen has his farm well improved and has been quite successful in his operations. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to the raising of live-stock and has done very well.

In 1886, in Plymouth county, Iowa, Jacob Hengtgen was united in marriage to Minnie Walters and to this union eleven children have been born, Edward, Mary, Frank, Eliabeth, Anna, Leo, Clara, Lena, Margaret, Florence and Roy. The Hengtgens have a pleasant home on their well-kept farm and are very comfortably situated. Mrs. Hengtgen is a member of the Lutheran church and the children have been reared in that faith, the family ever giving proper attention to local movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of the community in which they live. Mr. Hengtgen is a Democrat, but has not been a seeker after office.

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### GOTTLIEB HASENHEYER.

Gottlieb Hasenheyer, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Watonwan county, now living in comfortable ease at St. James, is a native of Germany, born on January 16, 1857, son of Andrew and Mary Hasenheyer, both natives of that same country, the former born in 1824 and the latter in 1826, who came to the United States in 1867 and settled on a farm in Will county, Illinois, where both spent the remainder of their lives, her death occurring in 1894, at the age of sixty-eight years, and his, the next year, 1895, he then being seventy-one years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Mary (deceased), Andrew, Johanna, Frederick, August, Fredericka and Herman.

Gottlieb Hasenheyer was about ten years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1867 and he completed his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in Will county, Illinois. From the age of fifteen years to twenty-three years he worked on a dairy farm, when, in 1880, he went to Chicago, where for sixteen years he was profitably engaged in the milk business. In 1886 Mr. Hasenheyer made a trip to this part of Minnesota and bought two hundred and forty acres of land in sec-



tion 31, St. James township, Watonwan county, regarding the same as a most excellent investment against the future. Ten years later he and his family moved out here, arriving on October 25, 1896, and established their home on that farm. With characteristic energy Mr. Hesenhayer proceeded to add to the improvements he already had projected on the place, set out a grove, erected substantial buildings and soon had one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that neighborhood. On October 10, 1913, he sold his farm and on January 30, 1914, moved to St. James, where he had bought a fine residence at the corner of First street and Sixth avenue, and there he since has made his home. Mr. Hasenhayer is a Republican and during his residence on the farm served for some time as a member of his local town board and also served for one term as township assessor. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and in his fraternal relation is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias.

On October 14, 1883, Gottlieb Hasenhayer was united in marriage to Caroline Gronert, who was born at Concord, Wisconsin, July 9, 1861, daughter of William and Ernestine Gronert, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1858, settling in Wisconsin, where William Gronert died in 1871, at the age of forty-four. William Gronert was born in 1827. Ernestine Gronert was born on June 30, 1836. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Hasenhayer was the third in order of birth, the others being Minnie, Amelia, Frank, Martha, William, Emma and Mary. The Widow Gronert married, secondly, Ferdinand Stack, and to that second union two children were born, Frederick and Malvina. Mrs. Stack is now living at Norwood, this state, at the age of eighty years. Mrs. Hasenhayer died on March 24, 1907, leaving three children, namely: Martha, born on June 29, 1884; Alice, April 25, 1895, and Leslie, June 29, 1888, who married Ida Swick, of Princeton, Wisconsin, and has two children, Myrtle Evelyn and Leslie.

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#### REV. JOHN MEYERS.

Rev. John Meyers, pastor of the Catholic church of St. James, Watonwan county, was born in Germany in 1874. He is a son of George and Anna Mary (Bures) Meyers, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, were educated and married. In 1881 she brought their family to St. Paul, Minnesota, where the father secured employment in the great flour mills, later moving to Dakota county, this state, on a farm, later locating



near Hastings, that county, where he purchased a farm on which he spent the rest of his life, dying there in 1905. His widow is now making her home in Hastings. The farm, which the family retains, is rented. To these parents the following children were born: Catherine, is the widow of John Schmitz and lives at Hastings, Minnesota; Nicholas operates the home farm near Hastings; Frank is farming in Dakota county; John, the subject of this review; Lucia makes her home with the subject of this sketch; Leonida is superintendent of the Holy Angels Academy at St. Cloud, this state; Mary is the wife of Jerry Kenny of Bradwell, Canada; George is connected with the postoffice service in Minneapolis.

Rev. John Meyers received his early education in the parochial schools of St. Paul and the public schools of Dakota county, Minnesota; later attended St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee and was graduated from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1903, in which year he was ordained priest. He then went to Claremont, Dodge county, Minnesota, and had charge of the churches at Kasson, Mantorville, Deerfield and Dodge Center for six years. He came to St. James in 1909 as pastor of St. James Catholic church and here he has since remained. He organized the church at Mantorville.

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### ALBERT E. JOHNSON.

Albert E. Johnson, a well-known and substantial farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, who is also the owner of a farm in the neighboring county of Blue Earth, is a native son of Watonwan county and has lived there all his life. He was born on the old homestead farm on which he still makes his home, November 1, 1867, son of Erick and Hansine (Iverson) Johnson, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to the United States after their marriage and settled in the vicinity of Leland, Illinois, where they were engaged in farming until 1864, in which year they came to Minnesota and settled in Watonwan county, thus having been among the earliest settlers of this part of the state. Erick Johnson homesteaded eighty acres in section 12, of Madelia township, and there established his home. He was an excellent farmer and it was not long until he was reckoned as among the most substantial farmers of that part of the county. As he prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and twenty-three acres and there he spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1893. His widow, who still survives

him, has always continued to make her home on the old homestead and is still living there, the subject of this sketch also making his home at the same place, where he has lived all his life. Erick Johnson and his wife were the parents of nine children, John, Eddie, Albert, Henry, George, Willis, Clarence and Josipha.

Albert E. Johnson was reared on the paternal homestead place, receiving his education in the district school in that neighborhood, and after his school days continued to make his home there, a valuable assistant to the labors of developing and improving the farm. He married Josie May Bundy, who died some years later, leaving two children, Helen and Elma. Mr. Johnson then married Mary Kroeger. In addition to his management of one hundred and fifty-two acres of his father's estate, Mr. Johnson is also engaged in the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and twelve acres which he owns over the line in Blue Earth county, and is doing very well, being recognized as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. He was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church and he and his wife are members of that church, taking a proper interest in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of Yeomen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations.

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### ANTON ELLINGSBERG.

Anton Ellingsberg, a well-known and substantial farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Madelia, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, born on May 21, 1866, son and only child of Iver and Anne Ellingsberg, natives of that same country and farming people. They were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their son was reared in that faith.

Anton Ellingsberg received his education in the schools of his native land and was well grown when he came to this country. His mother came six years later. After his marriage in 1891, he then being about twenty-five years of age, he located on the quarter section in Madelia township which he now owns and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Ellingsberg is an excellent farmer and has brought his place to a fine state of cultivation. The farm is well improved and carefully tended and shows

many evidences of its owner's progressive and modern methods of agriculture.

It was on February 27, 1891, that Anton Ellingsberg was united in marriage to Susan Fedje, who was born in this state on August 7, 1869, daughter of John O. and Brethe (Suphammer) Fedje, natives of the kingdom of Norway, the former of whom was eighteen years of age when he came to this country with four younger sisters, settling in Minnesota, and the latter of whom was eleven years old when she came to America with her mother and four sisters, they also being pioneers of this state. John O. Fedje was an honored veteran of the Civil War, having served in behalf of the Union cause throughout that struggle between the states as a member of the Eleventh Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Upon the conclusion of his military service he homesteaded a tract of land in section 12, Madelia township, Watonwan county, and established his home there, becoming one of the substantial and influential pioneers of that part of the county, and there he died in 1911, at a ripe old age. To Mr. and Mrs. Ellingsberg ten children have been born, John, Carl, Helmer, Anna, Martha, Alma, Edwin, Helen, Earl and Luther. The Ellingsbergs are members of the Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the general good works of their community. Mr. Ellingsberg is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes an active interest in the affairs of the same.

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### MABEL S. MADSON.

Few counties in the state of Minnesota have a better system of education than Watonwan. This is due in a measure to the commendable work of Mabel S. Madson, the present county superintendent of schools, a lady who has spared no pains in order to properly equip herself for this responsible position and who takes a deep interest in advanced and progressive methods of instruction, keeping fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to her chosen vocation.

Mabel S. Madson was born near the village of Madelia, Watonwan county, and there she grew to womanhood. She is a daughter of Henry and Christina Marie (Thompson) Madson, an old and highly respected family of this locality, a biographical sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume.

Miss Madson received her education in the public schools, graduating



MABEL S. MADSON.





from the Madelia high school in 1907, and later attended the State Normal School at Mankato, Minnesota, making an excellent record. Thus well equipped for her professional career, she began teaching school, which she followed with success for five years, her services being in great demand. Her ability and general qualifications attracting attention throughout the county, she was elected superintendent of schools for Watonwan county in the fall of 1912 and took office on January 1, 1913, which position she still holds. She has discharged her duties in a manner that reflects much credit upon herself and to the eminent satisfaction to all concerned. She possesses rare executive ability and has inaugurated a splendid system in all the schools and is popular among teachers and pupils. Personally she is kind, congenial, obliging, and finds her chief pleasure in helping others.

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### WALTER M. HALE.

Walter M. Hale, station agent for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad Company, at Windom, clerk of the city council and for years actively interested in the affairs of this part of the state, is a native of the great Empire state, born in Herkimer county, New York, June 28, 1862, son of Edward and Martha (Iles) Hale, both natives of England, who came to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were married in New York.

Edward Hale was a stone mason by trade and in the early eighties came to Minnesota, locating at Windom, where for some time he followed his trade and later became proprietor of the old Pioneer hotel in that city. He is a Mason and a member of the Episcopal church and took an active part in both church and lodge affairs. His wife died at Windom some years ago and he is now living with his daughter, Mrs. Jens Peterson, at Chippewa Falls, this state.

Walter M. Hale was reared at Mohawk, Herkimer county, New York, receiving his education in the schools of that town and a business college at Utica, New York. He early began the life of a railroader and became an expert telegraph operator. Upon locating at Windom in 1883 he was made operator in the station of the "Omaha" road at that place and after about eighteen months of that service was transferred to the station at Mountain Lake, where he was the agent for eighteen months, at the end of which time in 1886, he was transferred back to Windom and there installed as

station agent, a position which he has held ever since, thus holding a record as one of the oldest men in continuous service as station agents in this part of the state. Mr. Hale has not only been faithful and diligent in the affairs of the company he has so long served, but he has found time to give thoughtful attention to public affairs. He is a Republican and for nearly ten years served as clerk of the city council at Windom. For three years he has also been a member of the school board and in other ways has contributed to the public service of his home town, long having been regarded as one of the useful and substantial citizens of that place.

On March 14, 1883, just before coming West, Walter M. Hale was united in marriage, at Little Falls, Herkimer county, New York, to Mary E. Smith, who was born at that place. Mr. and Mrs. Hale have a very pleasant home at Windom and give their earnest attention to the various social and cultural activities of their home town. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hale is prominent in local lodge circles and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Royal Arcanum, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### EVEN O. HOLTE.

The rugged country of Norway has produced a sterling race. Her people are courageous and never permit obstacles to down them. Being fighters by nature they necessarily succeed when given even half a chance, so it is no wonder they soon become comfortably situated after taking up their residence in such a locality as Watonwan, Minnesota. Among those who have come here and made good, Even O. Holte, now living in retirement in St. James, should be mentioned.

Mr. Holte was born in Norway, July 8, 1852, and is a son of Ole and Esther Holte, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married and there the father spent his life, dying in 1876, at the age of fifty-four years. In 1878 the mother came to Mower county, Minnesota, and to Watonwan county in 1879 and lived most of the time with her son, Even O., until her death in 1905, at the age of eighty years.

Mr. Holte spent his boyhood in Norway and there attended the public schools. In 1873 he came to Mower county, Minnesota, where he remained until 1879, when he located in Watonwan county, buying forty acres. Pros-

pering through close application and good management, he added to this place until he owned four hundred acres of valuable land in Long Lake and South Branch townships, and for years carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He finally sold part of his land, and in 1911 came to St. James, bought a commodious home and is now living retired from the active duties of life.

Mr. Holte has been one of the influential men of his community, is a loyal Republican, and he was chairman of the township board in Long Lake township for several years, also served on the Republican central committee, also served on the local school board. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Even O. Holte was married, in 1876, to Martha Anderson Ovaley, who was born in Mower county, this state, in 1855. She was a daughter of Knut and Annie Ovaley, pioneers of Mower county, where the father died, but the mother is living in St. James, being now eighty-one years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Holte eleven children have been born, namely: Lena, Knute, Alma, Ida (deceased), Hilda, Otto, Elmer, Amanda, Arthur, Anne and Victor.

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### DONALD ROBERTSON SAVAGE.

Donald Robertson Savage, manager of the Tri-State Telephone Company at Windom, former superintendent of schools of Cottonwood county, a district engineer for the Minnesota state highway commission and for years actively identified with the rapidly developing interests of his home county, was born on August 8, 1871. Upon completing the course in the public schools at Windom he began teaching school, at the age of twenty years, and for nine years was thus engaged during the winters, spending his summers farming and threshing. In 1901 he was elected county superintendent of schools for Cottonwood county and for eight years filled that important and responsible office very acceptably. He then was appointed superintendent of schools at Heron Lake, in Jackson county, in the meantime engaging in surveying, he having become a very competent civil engineer, and on May 20, 1912, was appointed an engineer for the Minnesota state highway commission, which position he still occupies. In 1914 he was appointed manager of the Tri-State Telephone Company, with headquarters at Windom and has since then been actively engaged in administering the affairs of that progressive and rapidly growing concern.



In 1903 Donald R. Savage was united in marriage to Winifred Robison, daughter of George F. and Mary (Smith) Robison, of Windom, pioneers of Cottonwood county, and to this union three daughters have been born, Margaret, Mary and Edith. Mr. Savage is a Republican, a Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Royal Arcanum.

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### ABRAHAM B. FRIESEN.

Abraham B. Friesen, of Carson township, Cottonwood county, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers and stockmen of that part of the county, is a native of southern Russia, born on a farm there, August 18, 1871, son of Peter and Anna (Berg) Friesen, natives of that same country and early settlers in Cottonwood county, the former of whom is still living, a prosperous retired farmer at Mountain Lake.

Peter Friesen and his family left Russia in 1875 and came to Minnesota, locating at Mountain Lake, in Cottonwood county. A little later he bought a farm of eighty acres in Carson township and there established his home. He was a good farmer and a thrifty, energetic citizen and as he prospered in his farming operations added to his holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres. About 1902 he retired from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife moved to Mountain Lake, where she died in 1910 and where he is still living. He is a member of the Menonite church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Peter P., Anna, John, Jacob, Aaron, Catherine, Mary, Susanna and Sarah, all of whom are living.

Abraham B. Friesen was not quite four years old when his parents came to Minnesota from Russia in 1875 and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Carson township, receiving his education in the public schools of that township. He married when he was twenty-one years old and then began farming on the place on which he still lives, and on which he has made practically all the improvements that now go to make it one of the best farms in that part of the county. From the very beginning of his farming operations, Mr. Friesen prospered and he gradually added to his holdings until he is now the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and four acres and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in Cottonwood county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable atten-

tion to the raising of live stock and has done very well. He has long made a specialty of pure-bred Belgian draft horses and his breeding stables are known far and wide among the farmers of this part of the state. Mr. Friesen is a Republican and has long given careful attention to local political affairs, and for six years served as treasurer of Carson township.

It was on January 3, 1893, that Abraham B. Friesen was united in marriage to Helena Fast, daughter of John Fast, of Carson, and to this union twelve children have been born, John, Helena, Sarah, Abraham, Anna, Peter, Catherine, Henry, Jacob, Bernard, Aaron and Herman. Mr. and Mrs. Friesen are members of the Mennonite church and for years have been among the leaders in the work of that congregation, ever also exhibiting a proper concern in behalf of all other movements designed to advance the interests of the community in which they live.

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#### ROBERT REISDORPH.

Robert Reisdorph, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, now living very comfortably situated at Windom, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a pioneer farm in LeSueur county, this state, July 19, 1865, son of Silas E. and Fannie (Galt) Reisdorph, who later became pioneers of this part of the state, spending their last days in Cottonwood county.

Silas E. Reisdorph was reared on a farm in New York state, where he married and later moved to McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he became a farmer, later moving to Michigan, in which state he lived until he came to Minnesota, in 1866. Upon coming to this state, Silas E. Reisdorph settled in LeSueur county, where he made his home for five or six years, at the end of which time he moved to Hennepin county, where, in Bloomington township, he bought a farm and there made his home until 1878, in which year he came to this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land in Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he lived until his retirement from the farm in 1912 and removed to Windom, where he died the next year, in 1913. Silas E. Reisdorph had been twice married. His first wife, who was Betsy Hoag, died in the early sixties, leaving two children, John A. Reisdorph, a well-known farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, and Carrie, who married W. D. Seeley. Silas Reisdorph's second wife, Fannie Galt, bore him seven chil-

dren, of whom but two, Lloyd and the subject of this sketch, are residents of Cottonwood county.

Robert Reisdorph was about thirteen years of age when his parents came to this part of the state in 1878, settling in Cottonwood county, and here he has lived ever since. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-six years of age, a valuable assistant to his father in the development of the same, and then he bought a quarter of a section of land in Springfield township and began farming for himself. He was successful from the very beginning of his operations and as he prospered increased his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he still owns and on which he has expended about twenty-five hundred dollars in improvements. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Reisdorph gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and did very well. In 1901 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Windom, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

It was on February 19, 1901, that Robert Reisdorph was united in marriage to Carrie Widman, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Haag) Widman, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Neil. Mr. and Mrs. Reisdorph are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Windom, in the general beneficences of which they for years have taken an active part, Mr. Reisdorph being a member of the official board of the church, and they also give proper attention to the general good works of the community. Mr. Reisdorph is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.

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#### CHARLES B. PIERCE.

Charles B. Pierce, a well-known and substantial farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, former chairman of the board of supervisors of that township, a director of the Windom National Bank and for many years actively identified with the best interests of this section of the state, is a native of the state of Massachusetts, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1869 and of this section of the state since the opening of this region for settlement, in 1871, and is therefore numbered among those hardy pioneers who helped to bring about stable conditions hereabout in the early days. He was born at New Bedford, Massachusetts, September 14,



1852, son of Ira E. and Deborah F. (Potter) Pierce, the former of whom was born at East Callais, Vermont, and the latter at New Bedford, Massachusetts, who later became substantial pioneer residents of this section of Minnesota.

Ira E. Pierce left his native state of Vermont when a young man and went to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where for seven years he was engaged as a clerk in a hardware store. There he married and presently opened a grocery store, which he conducted for five or six years, at the end of which time he moved to Woodbury, Vermont, where he conducted a general store and also was engaged in farming for seven or eight years, after which he moved to Lyndon, in that same state, where he remained until 1869, in which year he came with his family to Minnesota and settled at Dover Center, in Olmstead county. In 1871, upon the opening of this part of the state to settlement, Ira E. Pierce moved out here and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneer citizens. Mr. Pierce was a Republican and took an active part in civic affairs in the early days. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being William, who died in January, 1881; Abbie F., who died when seven years of age, and Ira E.

Charles B. Pierce was but a baby when his parents moved from his native town of New Bedford to Vermont, and he was reared in the latter state, finishing his school days in a private academy at Lyndon. As a young man he was engaged as a clerk in his father's store and gained an excellent knowledge of mercantile forms. He was about seventeen years old when the family came to Minnesota and about nineteen when they moved to this part of the state, in 1871. Upon arriving here he immediately engaged in the task of helping to develop the homestead place in Lakeside township and became an excellent farmer, presently engaging in farming on his own account, and prospered in his operations from the very start, it not being very long until he was the owner of more than a section of land in Lakeside township. Afterward, however, he sold all his land save the half section on which he now lives and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated, Mr. Pierce long having been regarded as one of the leading farmers of that part of the county. He has not been unmindful of his duty to the public service and has served the people of his home township as chairman of the board of supervisors. He also has given considerable attention to the general business enterprises of the community and has



been a member of the board of directors of the Windom National Bank since the organization of that sound old financial institution. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Pierce devotes considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well in his agricultural operations.

In 1899 Charles B. Pierce was united in marriage to Belle Eastwood and to this union five children have been born: Charles Earl, Esther, Marion, William D. and Paul. Mr. Pierce is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in the affairs of these two organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JACOB J. BALZER.

One of the useful, versatile and many-sided men of Cottonwood county is Jacob J. Balzer, of Mountain Lake, who was born at Gnadenfield, Russia, October 14, 1860, a son of Jacob and Susan (Edgar) Balzer, both natives of Prussia, Germany, but who located in Russia about 1852, and lived twenty-one years at Pass Fik. The father was a joiner and farrier. He engaged in manufacturing fanning mills for some time and employed a number of men. He removed with his family to America in 1877, arriving at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, on July 3 of that year, and the following day they helped celebrate their first Fourth or Independence Day. They made their advent here in a box car. Jacob Balzer well remembers how he burned his fingers with the first firecracker he ever saw, which was upon his arrival at Mountain Lake. The father bought a farm four and one-half miles northeast of Mountain Lake, purchasing a homestead at twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. He established a comfortable home here through his industry. His death occurred on April 9, 1912, at the age of seventy-seven years. His widow is still living in Mountain Lake, being now advanced in years.

Jacob J. Balzer spent his boyhood in Russia and attended school there. After coming to Minnesota he was a student at the German College at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, also at the Methodist Episcopal University at the same place. However, prior to attending college he had taught a private school at Mountain Lake, and after his return from the university he took up school work for a time in Mountain Lake, which he continued until 1888, when he turned his attention to the ministry and to establishing a German-

English school, a private school, or to a certain extent, a Mennonite parochial school. A building was rented until 1901, when the present commodious structure was erected. Mr. Balzer accomplished this useful and necessary work in thirty-six days. There was not one cent in the treasury when he began. He was the only instructor when the school was first started, but in due course of time several others were added, and he became superintendent. English, German, Latin and theology were taught, and are still the principal branches. There are now over twenty alumni who are useful missionaries, doing excellent work in foreign lands.

In 1888 Jacob J. Balzer began Sunday school work. I. I. Bargan was the first superintendent. Out of this movement the Bethel church was built in 1888 and Mr. Balzer has been the active pastor of the same ever since. He was a teacher for a period of thirty-four years, the last four years of which period he was principal of the Mennonite Educational Institution, at Altoona, Manitoba, Canada, which school was under government supervision, and it turned out many capable teachers. He was principal of the school he established in Mountain Lake until 1910. He remained at the head of the Canadian institution until 1914, when he retired from educational work, in which he had won a wide and envied reputation. He has remained a wide student and is a man of profound learning. For a period of twenty-four years he was secretary of the general conference of the home missionaries of the Mennonites of North America, a position he filled in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned, retiring from that office in September, 1914. He has traveled quite extensively in the interest of the evangelistic department of the above named conference.

Jacob J. Balzer, although a very busy man with his school and church work, has proven himself to be a capable business man, and in 1889 he entered the general mercantile field, under the firm name of Balzer & Hiebert, at Mountain Lake, which store is still operated, having been very successful, enjoying a good trade all the while, the style of the firm now being Balzer, Hiebert & Company.

On May 4, 1884, Jacob J. Balzer was united in marriage to Susan Franz, a native of Russia, who came to Mountain Lake, Minnesota, July 5, 1878, with her parents, John Franz and wife. Her father was a merchant tailor. The following children have been reared by Jacob J. Balzer and wife: Jacob S., now a senior in the pharmaceutical department of the University of Minnesota, is president of his class; Marie Ennis is the wife

of Dr. H. R. Basinger, of Chicago, an instructor in Rush Medical College and also in the University of Chicago, his wife is a capable music teacher, having decided natural talent in music; Marie Gortz Balzer lives at home. These two girls were both adopted by Mr. Balzer and wife.

Mr. Balzer has taken an interest in public affairs and has served as city clerk, also as road master in his earlier years. He has done much to encourage a taste for music in this locality. He had to fight a religious prejudice against music. He is a capable music director. He is an earnest, logical and eloquent speaker, and is a man of true culture and progressive ideals.

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### HENRY C. BEISE, D. M. D.

Dr. Henry C. Beise, well-known dentist at Windom, former councilman and now a member of the school board of that city, who has been practicing his profession at Windom since 1896, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a farm in Medo township, Blue Earth county, this state, December 16, 1872, son of August and Sophia (Lader) Beise, the former a native of Germany, born on October 13, 1835, and the latter of New York City, born in 1842, both of whom later came West, locating in Wisconsin, where they were married, and thence to Minnesota, becoming pioneers of Blue Earth county, their last days being spent in the village of Mapleton, that county.

August Beise received his schooling in his native land and was fourteen years of age when his parents, Henry Beise and wife, came to the United States with their family in 1849, settling in Dodge county, Wisconsin. Henry Beise, the grandfather, homesteaded a farm in that county and there established his home; later he came to this state and bought a farm in Winona county in 1866, continuing, however, to hold his land in Wisconsin, and became a substantial pioneer of Winona county, where he spent the rest of his life, his last days being spent in the village of Lewistown; his widow later moved to Good Thunder, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and resided there until her death. August Beise grew to manhood in Dodge county, Wisconsin, and there he homesteaded a tract of land, which he presently sold to advantage and bought another farm in that same county. He married there Sophia Lader in 1859, who was born in the city of New York, daughter of Jacob and Mena (Lutz) Lader, the former of whom was born in France on February 22, 1812, who came to this country, locating



in New York City, but after about two years' residence there came West and homesteaded a farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, later, in 1866, coming to Minnesota and settling in Blue Earth county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Jacob Lader entered a homestead claim in Blue Earth county and there established his home, becoming a substantial pioneer farmer. His wife died in 1869, two years after settling in the new home, and he thereafter made his home with his daughter, Mrs. August Beise, in Medo township, that same county, until his death, in 1899.

It was in 1866 also that August Beise and wife moved from Wisconsin to Blue Earth county. They first bought a quarter section in Lyra township, where they lived for about three years, at the end of which time they moved over into Medo township and bought another quarter section, on which they lived for five years, when they bought an adjoining farm of three hundred and twenty acres, where they lived until 1900, in which year they retired from the farm and moved to the village of Mapleton, where their last days were spent, Mrs. August Beise dying on July 7, 1904, and August Beise, December 24, 1915. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Amelia, wife of John Frey, of Clear Lake, Iowa; Edward, who is living on and operating the old Beise home farm in Medo township, Blue Earth county; Ida, who lives at Mapleton, in that same county; Emma, wife of C. L. Sulrud, of Halstad, Norman county, this state; Dr. Charles J. Beise, who died at Mapleton, at the age of forty-two years; Judge George W. Beise, former county attorney of Stephens county, this state, and now municipal judge of Morris, that same county; Dr. Rudolph Beise, of Brainard, this state, and Minnie A., wife of O. Lovsines, of Halstad, Minnesota.

Henry C. Beise was reared on the home farm in Medo township, Blue Earth county, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by one year in the high school at Mapleton, after which he took a three-year course in the Mankato Normal School, after which he began teaching school, but after one year's experience in that vocation in Norman county, turned his attention to the study of dental surgery in the office of Dr. L. C. Cruttender, of Northfield, under whose preceptorship he was prepared for entrance into the dental department of the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1896. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Dr. Beise opened an office at Windom, June 15, 1896, and has ever since been very successfully engaged in practice there, being one of the best-



known members of his profession in this part of the state. The Doctor is a Republican and has given close attention to local political affairs, having served as a member of the city council, and is now a member of the city school board. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

On December 22, 1897, the year following his arrival in Windom, Doctor Beise was united in marriage to Blanche Johnson, of that city, daughter of Seth S. and Margaret (Evans) Johnson, pioneers of Windom, the former of whom, for years engaged in the flour and feed business in that city and later in the agricultural-implement business, and who died in 1900, since which time his widow has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Beise. To Doctor and Mrs. Beise three children have been born, Clark, born on October 13, 1898; Margaret, July 12, 1901, and Dorothy, April 22, 1905. Doctor and Mrs. Beise are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the Doctor is a member of the official board and one of the trustees. He has taken much interest in the affairs of Methodism in Minnesota and was a delegate to the general conference of that church in Minneapolis in May, 1912.

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### JOHN F. JOHNSON.

John F. Johnson, assessor of Amo township, Cottonwood county, and proprietor of a well-kept farm of eighty acres in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Denmark, born on June 25, 1866, son of P. C. and Caroline (Anderson) Johnson, both natives of that same country, who came to the United States with their family in 1874 and located at Minneapolis. Six years later, in 1880, P. C. Johnson came to this part of the state and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Amo township, Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life. He was an excellent farmer and as his affairs prospered added to his original homestead a quarter of a section adjoining, thus becoming the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Andrew M., John F., A. W., Christian, Charles and Emma.

John F. Johnson was about eight years old when he came to this country with his parents and he was about fourteen when the family moved from Minneapolis to Cottonwood county. He received his schooling in

the public schools of Minneapolis and early learned the carpenter trade, which trade he followed at Windom and elsewhere hereabout for four or five years after coming to this part of the state. He later equipped himself with a threshing outfit and during the threshing season made a specialty of threshing throughout the neighborhood. For years his chief interest has been farming. He has a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm of eighty acres in the Storden neighborhood and is one of the best-known residents of that part of the county. He has ever taken an active interest in local civic affairs and for fifteen years has served the public as assessor of Amo township, a position he now holds. For many years Mr. Johnson conducted the store and postoffice known as the Amo postoffice and store. This business was conducted until the town of Storden was established at the time the railroad was built through this section. Later the postoffice was also transferred to Storden.

In 1892 John F. Johnson was united in marriage to Augusta Grenager, who was born in Norway and came to America with her parents when quite small, settling in Wisconsin. To this union three children have been born, Chester, Mabel and Agnes. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper part in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works of the neighborhood.

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### ALBERT L. THOMPSON.

Albert L. Thompson, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, proprietor, in partnership with his brother, Theodore Thompson, of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres situated on rural route 2, out of Windom, is a native of Wisconsin, born in Marquette county, that state, December 17, 1872, son of Ole and Martha Thompson, both natives of the kingdom of Norway, whose last days were spent in Faribault county, Minnesota.

Ole Thompson was reared in his native land and became a soldier in the Norwegian army. It was during his period of service that the differences between the two branches of the dual government of Norway and Sweden, which years afterward resulted in an amicable separation of the two states, reached such an acute stage that the armies of the twin states were placed on a war footing with a view to resorting to the final arbitrament of arms, but, happily, these differences were adjusted without war

and Mr. Thompson thus saw no active service. When he was twenty-six years of age he came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, where he presently married a Norwegian girl who had come to this country with her parents when she was four years of age and had grown to womanhood in Wisconsin. After his marriage Ole Thompson settled on a farm in Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he lived until 1884, in which year he and his family came to Minnesota and settled in Faribault county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, Henry, Theodore, Albert L., Randolph, Bennie, Joseph, Rose, Anna, Lizzie and Alvina, who are still living, and Orin and Lizzie, who died in infancy. Ole Thompson and wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Albert L. Thompson was about twelve years old when his parents moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota and his schooling therefore was obtained in the schools of the former state and of Faribault county, this state. He remained on the home farm until his marriage in 1901, when he went to Polk county, where he was engaged in farming for two years, at the end of which time he and his elder brother, Theodore, bought the farm in Amo township, Cottonwood county, where Albert L. Thompson now lives, and the latter remained there for a couple of years, farming the same, after which he returned to Faribault county and was there, at Brice lyn, engaged in the livery business and retail meat trade for two years, at the end of which time he moved to Doland, South Dakota, and in the latter place was engaged in the same form of business for six years in partnership with his brother, Theodore. In 1911 Albert L. Thompson returned to Cottonwood county and resumed his place on the home farm, which he and his brother had continued and still continue to hold, the brother remaining in charge of the business at Doland, and he has ever since made his home on the farm, where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Thompson is an excellent farmer and in addition to his general farming has given considerable attention to stock raising and is looked upon as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that neighborhood.

It was in 1901 that Albert L. Thompson was united in marriage to Grace Foster, and to this union three children have been born, Viola, Gerald and Madge. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in the general good works and social activities of the neighborhood in which they live. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.



## EDWARD McCAULEY.

Edward McCauley, a well-known, progressive and prosperous farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and forty acres situated on rural route 5, out of Windom, is a native of the Emerald Isle, born in County Antrim, in the north of Ireland, January 19, 1862, son of James and Ellen (Killen) McCauley, the former a native of that same county and the latter of Scotland, both of whom spent their last days in Ireland, the father dying when his son, Edward, was ten years old. James McCauley was a farmer and stock raiser. He and his wife were the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters, James, John, Jane, Sarah, Ellen and Edward.

Edward McCauley was reared on the home farm in his native land, receiving his education in the government schools, and when twenty-one years of age, in 1883, came to the United States, landing at the port of New York on March 7 of that year. He proceeded directly to Piatt county, Illinois, where he remained for eighteen months, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota and located at Windom. He presently was engaged as a "hand" on the farm of W. H. Benbow, in Amo township, and has ever since had his residence in that township, having scarcely been out of the county since then, save for two trips made back to Ireland. After working eighteen months on the Benbow farm, Mr. McCauley took service on another farm in that same township and at the end of two years of employment on that farm bought the relinquishment of a dissatisfied homesteader's claim to a homestead and timber claim to two hundred and eighty acres in that township and proceeded to improve and develop the same. That was in 1888 and Mr. McCauley ever since has made his home on that place. He prospered in his farming operations and in due time enlarged his holdings by the purchase of another quarter section, in section 1, Amo township, and is thus the owner of four hundred and forty acres, which he has brought to a fine state of cultivation. The improvements on his place are of a substantial character, an excellent house, and farm buildings in keeping with the same, and he long has been recognized as one of the leading farmers in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming, Mr. McCauley has also paid considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and has a fine herd.

It was in 1893, during one of his trips back to his native land, that Edward McCauley was united in marriage, in County Antrim, Ireland, to Anna Martin, who was born in that county, and to this union two sons



have been born, Edward James and Crawford Brice. Mr. and Mrs. McCauley are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works of the community in which they live.

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### WILLIAM ARTHUR PETERSON.

William Arthur Peterson, a highly skilled draughtsman of Windom, Cottonwood county, was born at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin, February 22, 1856. He is a son of Cyrus N. and Ellen Maria (Nason) Peterson, both natives of Vermont, where they spent their earlier years, moving to Ohio, then to Dane county, Wisconsin, about 1855, removing in 1858 to near Mankato, Minnesota, whither the father had come in 1857, taking up a pre-emption homestead in Blue Earth county—eighty acres—on which he resided until about 1867, in which year he went to Faribault county and bought a farm, but removed to Cottonwood county in 1870, locating in Springfield township, homesteading the south half of the northeast quarter of section 12. Here he developed a good farm on which he spent the rest of his life. He was also a carpenter and builder. His family consisted of two children, namely: Elias N., a veteran of the Civil War, having served in Company H, Fourth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and William A., the subject of this sketch.

William A. Peterson grew up on the farm and received a common school education, and he also attended the high school at Windom. He remained on the home farm until he was about twenty-three years of age. He taught two terms of school, the first one when eighteen years of age. On November 20, 1878, he began working in the field agents' department of what is now known as the "Omaha Railway," and was located at Worthington seven years, then was transferred to St. Paul as chief clerk and assistant land commissioner, which position he held until November 1, 1895. He returned to Windom, where he engaged in the real-estate business until 1905, later becoming chief draughtsman for C. W. Gove, ditching contractor, which position he still holds.

William A. Peterson has been twice married, five children being born of the first union, of whom two are living, namely: Eva, the wife of Harry Strange, of St. Paul, and Edna, the wife of T. J. Jennes, of Win-

dom. Mr. Peterson was married, secondly, to Richie Maxwell, February 22, 1908.

Politically, Mr. Peterson is a Prohibitionist. He was formerly village recorder of Windom. He was at one time surveyor of Nobles county, Minnesota, while living at Worthington. He was justice of the peace at Windom for six years. He and his family are Baptists, and he is treasurer and trustee of the local church of this denomination. He has also taken a good citizen's part in the general development of the communities in which he has lived. Fraternally, he has belonged to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons since 1883, and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since about 1901.

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### NEAL C. SORENSEN.

Neal C. Sorensen, the well-known manager of the creamery at Butterfield and the owner of a fine farm in the vicinity of that flourishing village, is a native of the kingdom of Denmark, but has been a resident of the state of Minnesota since he was fourteen years of age. He was born on February 1, 1875, son of Christian and Ingeborg Sorensen, natives of Denmark, the former born in 1842 and the latter in 1849, who came to Minnesota in 1889 and settled at Big Lake, in Sherburne county. There Christian Sorensen died in the following spring, the spring of 1890, leaving his widow with nine children. The widow Sorensen kept her family together and continued to make her home at Big Lake until 1895, in which year she moved to Sherburn, in Martin county, later moving to a farm near Walnut Grove, in Murray county, where she spent her last days with her daughter, Mrs. Charles M. Johnson, her death occurring on July 6, 1914.

Of the nine children born to Christian and Ingeborg Sorensen all are still living. The two elder sons, Samuel S. and Christian L. Sorensen, were the first of the family to come to the United States. They took passage on the steamer "Denmark," which was wrecked in the vicinity of the Azores. The passengers and crew were taken off by a cattle-ship and the brothers, after some delay, made their way safely to this country, proceeding almost directly after their landing to Minnesota, from which point they sent back such glowing reports that the rest of the family shortly afterward followed. One child was born after the family came to Minnesota, born at Big Lake, shortly after the death of the father in the spring of 1890; the others all were natives of Denmark. Of these children the subject of this sketch was

the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Samuel S., who is now manager of the creamery at Lamberton, this state; Christian L., manager of a creamery at Madelia; Andrew, a farmer, living in the vicinity of Chewelah, in the state of Washington; Anna, who married L. P. Hanson, who for some years was a butter maker at Windom and is now engaged as a contractor at Vanhook, North Dakota; Martin M., a butter maker at Dunnell, this state; Mary E., wife of Charles M. Johnson, of Walnut Grove, this state; David D., now manager of a creamery at Arlington, this state, and Herman C., born at Big Lake, who also grew up in the creamery business and was for some years engaged in that business at Janesville, but is now engaged in farming in the vicinity of Welcome, in Martin county.

Neal C. Sorensen was fourteen years of age when his parents came to this country. He had received careful schooling in his native land, but owing to the death of his father so soon after coming over here, necessitating the work of all hands to keep the family together, was unable to continue his studies in school for very long in this state. His first work here was on farms in the vicinity of Big Lake and on the railroad there and at the age of eighteen he began learning the creamery business and has ever since been engaged in that line, having come to be one of the best known and most competent creamery men in the state. His first managerial position was at Alson, South Dakota, but after a short stay there was called back to Minnesota to take charge of a creamery plant at St. Michael, in Wright county, where he remained until he was called, February 1, 1896, to take charge of the creamery at Odin, in Watonwan county. There he remained nine years, becoming one of the most influential of the early residents of that village. During his residence in Odin township, Mr. Sorensen also engaged in the mercantile business there and served as postmaster of the township for some time. On September 1, 1904, Mr. Sorensen was made manager of the creamery at Butterfield and has ever since occupied that position, having done there a fine work, the products of the Butterfield creamery being in wide demand wherever introduced. Mr. Sorensen has done well in his business and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of his part of the county. He formerly owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 26 of Butterfield township, but after awhile sold that place and bought a farm of eighty acres in section 52 of the same township, which he now owns. By political persuasion Mr. Sorensen is a Prohibitionist and for years has been one of the most active workers in behalf of the principles of that party and the cause of temperance generally in Watonwan county. In 1906 he was his party's nominee for representative from this district to the



state Legislature and has done much to advance the cause of temperance hereabout. For eight or nine years he was a member of the school board at Butterfield and was treasurer of the same at the time the fine new school house was built there. In other ways he has been an active factor in the work of developing the interests of his home town and has long been regarded as one of Butterfield's most useful and influential citizens.

On February 12, 1897, while living in Odin township, Neal C. Sorensen was united in marriage to Frances G. Sorensen, who was born in Denmark on February 29, 1876, daughter of Peter and Maran Sorensen, who came to Minnesota in 1893 and settled at Welcome, later moving to Sherburn and now living with their son, John T. Sorensen, at Okanogan, Washington. To Neal C. and Frances G. (Sorensen) Sorensen four children have been born, namely: Earl Lincoln, born in 1898, who supplemented his schooling in the public schools of Butterfield by a course in the Business College at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and is now a traveling salesman for the Whole-Wheat Milling Company, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Martha Washington, born in 1901, who is adding to her work in the public schools a special course in music; Paul Neal, born on April 15, 1904, and Marian Frances, June 14, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen are members of the Presbyterian church at Butterfield and take an active interest in church work, as well as in all local good works, Mr. Sorensen having served the local congregation as a member of the board of trustees of the church, treasurer of the same, and was for some years superintendent of the Sunday school.

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### THOMAS BONDHUS.

Thomas Bondhus, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, known as "Fairview Farm," south of the village of Storden, treasurer of Amo township, former assessor of that township, secretary of the Storden Grain Company and of the Storden Co-operative Company and otherwise active in the general affairs of that part of the county, is a native of Iowa, born on a farm in Clinton county, that state, February 3, 1880, son of Ole and Olena (Oyre) Bondhus, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to the United States in 1868 and located in Clinton county, Iowa, being thus among the pioneers of that section of the state, and remained there until 1883, in which year they moved to Ida



county, same state, where they lived until coming to Minnesota in the fall of 1895.

Upon coming to this state, Ole Bondhus and his family settled in Amo township, Cottonwood county, where they established their home. There Mr. Bondhus and his wife lived until their retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal to the village of Storden, where they are now living, very comfortably situated in their declining years. They are members of the Lutheran church and their children have been reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Thomas, who died in infancy; Lena, who married Oscar Thompson; Sella, who married A. J. Tjentland; Mary, who married Simon Olson; Hattie, Torris, John and Herman.

Thomas Bondhus was about fifteen years old when he came with his parents to Minnesota and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Amo township. When he was eighteen years old he supplemented the schooling he had received in the public schools by a course in a business college at Minneapolis and upon returning from college was employed as a bookkeeper in Johnson Brothers store at Westbrook and was thus engaged for two years and six months, during which time he also served in the capacity of assistant postmaster. Not finding a mercantile life at all to his liking, Mr. Bondhus then returned to the farm and ever since has been engaged in farming. He remained on the home farm until after his marriage in 1908 and has lived on his present farm since 1911. He has a half section of land, well improved and profitably cultivated and has done very well in his farming operations. Mr. Bondhus has not been unmindful of a good citizen's duty toward the public service and has contributed of his time and his energies in that behalf. For three years he served as assessor of Amo township and is now serving in the capacity of township treasurer. In the general business life of the community he also has displayed much activity and has long been regarded as one of the most public-spirited and progressive citizens of that township. He helped to organize the Storden Grain Company and the Storden Co-operative Company (mercantile) and ever since their organization has served as secretary of these two useful companies.

In the fall of 1908 Thomas Bondhus was united in marriage to Carrie T. Thompson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway and who came to this country with her parents in 1904, and to this union four children have been born, Agnes L., Ole H., Helma I. and Truman A. Mr. and Mrs. Bondhus take a warm interest in the general social life of the community

in which they live and are regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to advance the common interest in and about Storden and throughout the county at large.

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### OSCAR J. THOMPSON.

Oscar J. Thompson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Storden, former member of the board of supervisors of that township and for years "road boss" in his district, is a native of Norway, but has lived in this country ever since he was fifteen years old and has been a resident of this section of Minnesota since the year 1897. He was born in 1871, son of Jens T. and Karna J. (Flatebo) Oyre, both of whom are still living in Norway, their native land, the former of whom, a former soldier of his country, is now a retired farmer. To Jens T. Oyre and wife ten children were born, of whom two only came to this country, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Andrew, living in Cottonwood county, also a resident and well-known farmer of Amo township. But two of the remainder of the children are now living, Torbjon and Kristhe J. Oyer, still residents of their native land.

Upon completing the course in the government schools in his native land, he then being about fifteen years of age, Oscar J. Thompson, in 1886, came to the United States, locating at Holstein, Ada county, Iowa, where he began working as a farm hand, and in that vicinity he continued to live for about ten years. There he married and established his home, but something more than three years after his marriage he came to Minnesota, arriving in Cottonwood county in 1897. He settled on a farm in Springfield township and there he and his family made their home for thirteen years, or until moving onto their present farm, a quarter of a section of excellent land in Amo township, which Mr. Thompson bought in 1910. Mr. Thompson is an excellent farmer and his place is well improved and well kept. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done well, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood. He also has given considerable attention to local civic affairs and during his residence in Springfield township served for three years as a member of the board of supervisors of that township. The year after his removal to Amo township he was elected "road boss" in his district there and has ever since oc-

cupied that position, except one year, during which time he has done much in the way of advancing the cause of highway betterment thereabout.

It was on January 23, 1893, that Oscar J. Thompson was united in marriage, in Ada county, Iowa, to Lena Bondhus, daughter of O. T. Bondhus, now a well-known resident of Cottonwood county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and to that union nine children have been born, Caroline, Ole, Hattie, Agnes, Theodore, Sattie, Esther, Johanna Marie (deceased), Harra Kristhene (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the Lutheran church and take a general interest in the good works of their home community, ever willing to promote all measures designed to advance the cause of the public welfare thereabout.

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### JAMES T. DAVIES.

James T. Davies, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and fifteen acres south of Storden, chairman of the board of supervisors of Amo township and for years actively interested in the general affairs of that part of the county, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a pioneer farm in Antrim township, in the neighboring county of Watonwan, August 10, 1871, son of William and Gertrude (Thomas) Davies and grandson of William and Mary (Williams) Davies, who were the first settlers in Antrim township.

The elder William Davies and his wife, natives of Wales, came to the United States about the year 1850 and settled in Wisconsin, where they remained until they came to this state, about 1864, and settled in Antrim township, Watonwan county, being the earliest arrivals in that township and becoming useful and influential pioneer citizens. They homesteaded a tract of land there and on that homestead farm spent the remainder of their days. The younger William Davies was a well-grown lad when he came to the United States with his parents from his native Wales about 1850 and he grew to manhood on a pioneer farm in Wisconsin. There he married Gertrude Thomas, who was born in England, daughter of James and Sophia (Dibbs) Thomas, natives of England, who came to the United States with their family about 1850 and settled in Wisconsin, where Mrs. Thomas spent her last days. Later James Thomas joined his daughter, Mrs. Davies, in Watonwan county, and his last days were spent in her home.

It was about a year after his parents came to Minnesota that the younger



William Davies and his wife came out here. They also settled in Antrim township, Watonwan county, arriving there in 1865, and were thus among the early pioneers of this part of the state. They spent the rest of their lives on their homestead farm there, useful and influential citizens, and left good memories behind them. William Davies was active and diligent in his own affairs and also took an active part in the public affairs of his home township in the early days, having served in several offices of trust and responsibility. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Joseph, Mary (deceased), Morgan (deceased), Fred, Bertha and Mark (deceased). William Davies and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith.

James T. Davies was reared on the homestead farm in Antrim township, where he was born, and received his education in the schools in the neighborhood of his home. He grew up a farmer and has been actively engaged in that vocation all his life. He was married in the summer of 1901 and three or four years later, in the spring of 1905, moved to the farm on which he has since then made his home, in Amo township, Cottonwood county. Mr. Davies has an excellent farm of three hundred and fifteen acres, well improved and highly cultivated and has done very well in his farming operations. He also has found time to give a good citizen's attention to the public service and is now chairman of the township board and treasurer of his local school district. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and take a proper part in the good works of their home community.

It was on June 5, 1901, that James T. Davies was united in marriage to Katie Radcliff, of Amo township, daughter of C. N. Radcliff, a former prominent farmer of that township, now living retired at Los Gatos, California, and to this union four children have been born, Ruth (deceased), Harry, Archie (deceased) and Catherine.

C. N. Radcliff is a native of Illinois. His wife was born in Wisconsin. Both came to Minnesota and were married here. He came to Minnesota in 1864, and settled in Blue Earth county; later came to Cottonwood county in 1885; settled in Amo township, where he lived until 1912, when he moved to California, where he and his wife are still living. They were the parents of ten children, namely: Katie, George, Myrtle, William, Lila, and five who are deceased. C. N. Radcliff served as a member of the board of supervisors of Amo township. He is a Republican.

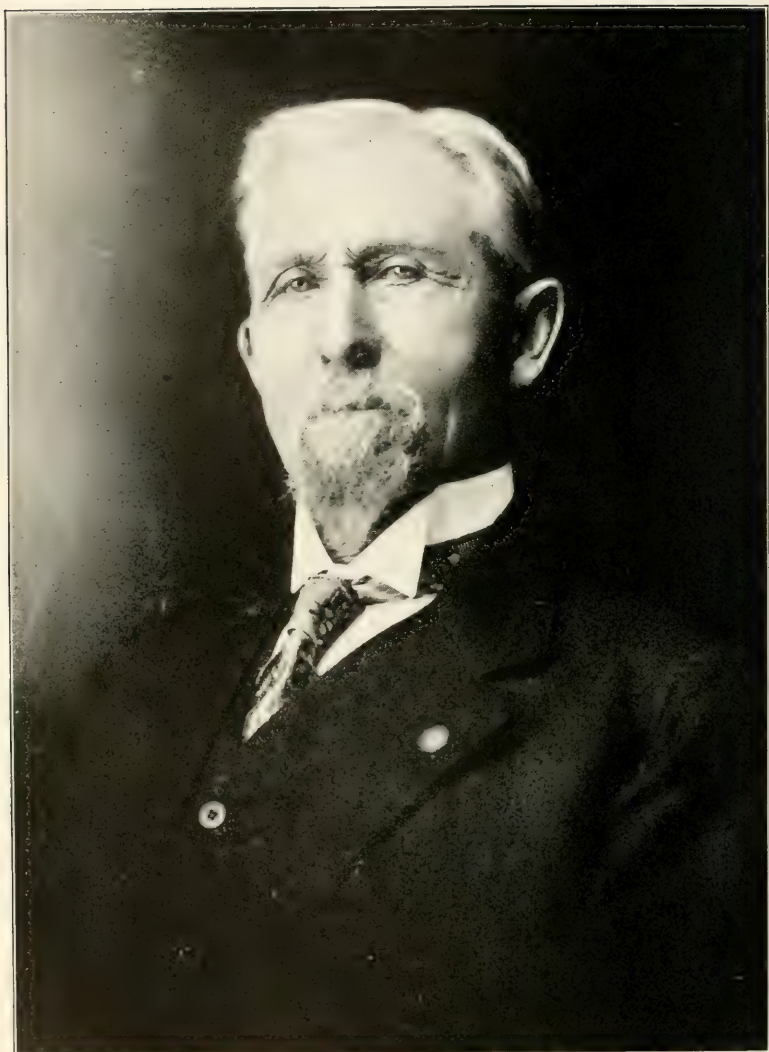


## ELWIN ZILLORA RASEY.

Among the enterprising citizens which the old Empire state sent out to assist in the upbuilding of the great West is Elwin Z. Rasey, now living in retirement in St. James, Watonwan county, where he has played well his role in the drama of civilization, benefiting alike himself and his fellow citizens here. He was born at Hartford, Washington county, New York, November 23, 1844, and is a son of William B. and Nancy H. (Hale) Rasey, both born in the state of New York, the mother being of English parentage, and the father of Hollandish blood. William B. Rasey and wife moved to LaMartine township, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, in October, 1848, pre-empting eighty acres of land, and there he resided until he was about eighty years of age, when he moved to Rosendale, where both he and his wife died, he having reached the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He was very religious and was a strong Methodist in faith. His family consisted of seven children, namely: Samuel H., Sarah Jane, Mary Elsin, Armna, Olive H. Harland and Elwin Z., five of whom are now deceased; Olive H. lives in Washington, and Elwin Z. is the subject of this review.

Elwin Z. Rasey received his education in the common schools of Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, and assisted his father with the work on the home farm until he was seventeen years of age. On August 21, 1862, he enlisted for service in the Union army in Company H, Thirty-second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served gallantly and faithfully until the close of the war and was honorably discharged on June 12, 1865, being mustered out at Milwaukee. He participated in many severe engagements and bullets often cut holes in his clothes, but he was never wounded or taken prisoner. Of his three comrades who went to the front with him, all survived the war, but all died of its effects. He fought in fifteen battles and six skirmishes, according to government report. He was first under General Grant during the advance on Vicksburg, then was under General Sherman until the close of the war, and he marched to the sea from Atlanta to Savannah. He was in the Seventeenth Army Corps under Gen. Frank P. Blair, who landed his troops at Beaufort, and headed off Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, in a flank movement on the right of Sherman's army, thus keeping Johnston's army from uniting with another Confederate army at Charleston. Mr. Rasey was in the advance of Sherman's army when Johnston surrendered. He then went to Washington City, where he spent a few days and took part in the Grand Review. He reached home June 14, 1865.





ELWIN Z. RASEY.



MRS. HELEN RASEY.





After working on his father's farm for six years, he came to Minnesota, locating in Odin township, Watonwan county, taking a soldier's homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and engaged successfully in general farming until his retirement from active life. He moved to St. James, in 1896, but continued to operate his farm just north of this city, also dealing in live stock. He was engaged in the dairy business about fifteen years. He lived on his wife's father's farm near St. James for a period of fourteen years, but has been retired from active farm life since 1912.

Mr. Rasey has been twice married, his first marriage occurring in Wisconsin on March 22, 1866, when he was united to Alice C. Gross, to which union four children were born, namely: Lillian N., Florence E., Myrtle J. and Lester E. The mother of these children died on May 16, 1877.

On July 25, 1878, Mr. Rasey was married to Helen Adele Sargent, who was born in Wisconsin near where Mr. Rasey was reared, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Roy S., Ruth A., Inez E., William H., Jessie A., Flora E. and Nina O. Mrs. Rasey is a daughter of Samuel W. and Emmaline (Chamberlain) Sargent, the former of whom was born August 26, 1822, and died May 20, 1915, and the latter of whom was born June 7, 1823, and died September 6, 1913. Samuel W. Sargent was a native of New Hampshire while his wife was born in Vermont, their marriage taking place on March 31, 1848, at Sharon, Vermont, after which the young couple came west, locating in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, in 1848, where they remained until 1869, when they came to Minnesota, settling in Watonwan county. He was a farmer all his life until his retirement from active life, and died at the home of his son, Henry C. Sargent, of Valdosta, Georgia. His wife died in Mayfield, Michigan, at the home of her eldest daughter. Samuel Sargent and wife were the parents of four children: Henry Curtis, born October 4, 1850, a railroad man living in the South; Adelaide Amanda, born October 24, 1852; Helen Adele, the wife of Mr. Rasey, born March 19, 1855, and Emma Jeanette, born April 6, 1858. Mr. Sargent was very active in the religious life of his community, being a deacon in the Baptist church for many years. He was a Republican in politics. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sargent were prominent in the early life of Watonwan county, and Rosendale township was given its name by Mrs. Sargent in honor of her old Wisconsin home. Mrs. Helen Adele (Sargent) Rasey has always been deeply interested in educational work, and was the first lady superintendent of county schools in Minnesota, being appointed to that important position in 1874 and serving two years. She received her

education in the common schools of her home county in Wisconsin, completing her educational training in the Mankato Normal School, after which she taught school at St. James for two years, then was appointed county superintendent. She began her teaching career at the early age of fourteen.

Mr. Rasey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he and his family take an active and interested part. He has been a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic since it was first organized, having been a state officer in the same, and has served as local commander for the past twenty-three years. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Arcanum. He is a Republican in politics.

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### GUSTAV T. RASCHE.

Gustav T. Rasche, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the Westbrook neighborhood, one-half of which farm lies in Westbrook township and the other half in Rose Hill township, his home being in the latter township, and who for years has been recognized by the agricultural department of the United States government as one of the leading alfalfa experts of the country, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in the city of St. Peter, county seat of Nicollet county, April 9, 1878, son of Henry F. and Caroline (Campe) Rasche, both natives of Hanover, Germany, who became pioneers of Cottonwood county, where their last days were spent.

It was in 1873 that Henry F. Rasche and wife and their young children came to this country from Germany. Upon landing at the port of New York they lost little time in proceeding to Minnesota, this state having been their destination when they started from their native land. They located at St. Peter, where Henry F. Rasche was engaged in the lumber business until 1878, when he came to this section of the state and located in Cottonwood county, where he homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Rose Hill township, on which he threw up a sod house and there established his home, that sod house serving as a home for the family for six years, or until supplanted by the substantial house in which the subject of this sketch now lives. Henry Rasche and his wife were earnest and energetic pioneers and took an active part in the work of developing that part of the county. Mr. Rasche was an excellent farmer and as his farming operations prospered he

added to his land holdings until he became a very well-to-do man. He first pre-empted a timber claim of a quarter of a section in Westbrook township, then bought eighty acres of railroad land in Westbrook township, just across the road from his homestead farm, and then bought another quarter section in Rose Hill township, becoming very well established. His wife died on the homestead farm in 1902 and he later retired to the village of Westbrook, where he died in 1910. They were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: Henry C., of Regan, North Dakota; Ernest A., of St. Peter, this state, head nurse in the men's department of the state hospital for the insane at that place, a work in which he has been engaged for twenty-five years; Caroline D., wife of E. A. Watschke, of Lake Wilson, this state; Christine, now deceased, who was the wife of the Rev. H. Flathmann; Charles J., a farmer of Westbrook township, and Louis A., of Rose Hill township.

Gustav T. Rasche was but an infant in arms when his parents moved from St. Peter to Cottonwood county and he therefore has spent practically his whole life on the old homestead farm on which he still resides. He supplemented the schooling received in the local school in the neighborhood of his home by close home reading and early was attracted to the possibilities of scientific farming. In 1893 a peck of Grimm alfalfa seed was obtained from Henry Peterman, of Waconia, in Carver county, and he started in on a series of experiments with that variety, the result of which experiments has caused his name to be known among thoughtful agriculturists from ocean to ocean. So satisfactory were the results of his original experiments that Mr. Rasche pursued his labors in that direction with even greater care and for twenty-two years or more has kept that particular strain of seed isolated from the rest of the stock and has produced a distinctive variety of alfalfa, which government bulletins declare to be one of the hardiest strains grown in the Northwest. It would appear that when the agricultural department is asked for information regarding this seed inquirers are directed to Mr. Rasche for the desired information, for he has received letters bearing on the subject from all parts of the country, from the state of Washington to the state of Maine, and one inquirer even wrote from Madison Square Garden, all stating that they had been referred to him by the department at Washington.

In 1913 Mr. Rasche took the short course in agriculture at the University of Minnesota farm and in 1914 was appointed a delegate from Minne-



sota to the sixth national corn exposition, held at Dallas, Texas, February 10-24, his appointment coming from Hon. Adolph O. Eberhart, then governor of Minnesota. Mr. Rasche is one of the most active members of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and for several years past has given most of his attention to the breeding of seeds, especially of that particular strain of alfalfa seed which he has produced, all the seed he raises being eagerly bought by the government for distribution. Among the prizes he has taken on the Rasche strain of Grimm alfalfa may be mentioned the following: First premium, Minnesota state fair; first premium, Minnesota seed fair; first premium, Northwestern corn and grain show, and fourth premium, world's class, national corn exposition. Mr. Rasche has also been successful in breeding what is now known as the Rasche "sixty-day" oats, a variety that has attracted widespread attention, and he is widely recognized, not only in Minnesota, but throughout the Northwest generally, as one of the most advanced farmers and seed experts in the country.

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### ARTHUR L. SWARTZ.

Arthur L. Swartz, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, is a native of Iowa, born in Clinton county, that state, October 25, 1863, son of Henry and Eliza (Koch) Swartz, natives of the state of Pennsylvania, who came West about 1852 and settled in Clinton county, Iowa. Henry Swartz was a carpenter by trade, but the most of his life he spent farming. During the Civil War he served as a private in Company F, Tenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Fifteenth Army Corps, and during all the period of his service was neither wounded nor taken prisoner. In 1868 he and his family moved from Clinton county to Cedar county, Iowa, and established their home there. In that latter county Mrs. Swartz died in 1883. Henry Swartz spent his last days in Ida county, same state, where his death occurred in 1906. He and his wife were members of the German Reform church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth and the first two of whom died in infancy, the others being Ella F., who died in 1915, George Peter, William J. and Burdette.

Reared on the paternal farm, Arthur L. Swartz early began farming for himself and after awhile located on a farm in Cherokee county. He

married in 1890 and in 1895 disposed of his farming interests in Iowa and came to Minnesota, locating in Cottonwood county. He bought the farm of one hundred and fifty acres on which he now resides, in Amo township, and there he and his family have made their home ever since, being very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Schwartz is an excellent farmer and his place is well improved and profitably cultivated, he long having been recognized as one of the substantial farmers in that section of the county.

It was in 1890 that Arthur L. Swartz was united in marriage to Lizzie Springer, who was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of Harry Springer and wife, natives of that same state, who came West and settled in Ida county, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. Harry Springer was a veteran of the Civil War and a substantial farmer in the community in which he lived in Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Swartz eight children have been born, Earl H., Mabel A., Ethel M., Bessie A., Lewis M., Willis C., Coral and Angie Iris Zaida.

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#### ANTON ROSSING.

Anton Rossing, one of the big and progressive farmers of Cottonwood county and one of the best-known citizens of that county, owner of a fine farm of eight hundred acres in the Walnut Grove neighborhood in Westbrook and Ann townships, with his home situated on the edge of the latter township, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in Lafayette county, that state, June 6, 1866, son of Andrew and Inger (Lund) Rossing, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to this country in 1850 and located in Wisconsin, settling on a farm in Lafayette county, that state, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being W. L., Catherine and Emilia.

Anton Rossing was reared on the paternal farm in Wisconsin and received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. As a young man he started farming on his own account in his native county and lived there until 1890, when he moved to Humboldt county, that same state, locating at Bode, where he was engaged in the hay, grain and elevator business until he came to Minnesota in 1900. Upon coming to this state, Mr. Rossing bought a tract of eight hundred acres of land on the

line between Westbrook and Ann townships, in Cottonwood county, and proceeded to improve the same and bring it under cultivation. He adopted modern methods of farming and has prospered from the very beginning of his operations, long having been recognized as one of the leading farmers of Cottonwood county. Mr. Rossing's farm is one of the extensive farms hereabout and the new county ditch traverses the entire tract of land. Following his marriage, in 1908, Mr. Rossing established his home on his farm and he and his family are very pleasantly situated there. Mr. Rossing is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

It was in 1908, about eight years after coming to Minnesota, that Anton Rossing was united in marriage to Amelia Olson, and to this union three children have been born, Alton H., Sherman E. and Daphne. Mr. and Mrs. Rossing are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various good works of their community, ever being interested in such measures as are designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### E. E. HEGGERSTON.

E. E. Heggerston, a well-known and substantial farmer of Ann township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Walnut Grove, treasurer of that township, former assessor of the same and former member of the board of county commissioners from that district, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, born on August 18, 1852, son of Erick and Marit (Clostad) Heggerston, both natives of that same country, the former of whom was born on September 8, 1818. Erick Heggerston was a farmer in comfortable circumstances and spent all his life in his native land. He and his wife were the parents of three children, Kari, E. E., and Ole, who were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church.

Reared on the paternal farm, E. E. Heggerston received his education in the government schools of his native land and assisted his father in the work of the farm until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1871, he came to the United States and proceeded directly to Minnesota, to which state large numbers of his fellow-countrymen had preceded him. He stopped in Fillmore county for a year and then, in 1872, became attracted to the possibilities that awaited the settlers who were then beginning to open up



this part of the state and moved over into Cottonwood county. The next year, in 1873, he homesteaded a quarter of a section in Ann township, the place on which he is still making his home, and proceeded to bring the same under cultivation, soon having a productive and well-improved farm. One of his first movements was the planting of a fine orchard on his homestead and he ever has been known as one of the leading fruit growers in that section. He has always taken much interest in his orchard and now has more than four hundred and fifty apple trees on his place. In 1887, about ten years after beginning the development of his homestead, Mr. Heggerston married and established a comfortable home on his place, where he and his family are living in substantial comfort. Mr. Heggerston is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. For fifteen years he served the public as assessor of Ann township; for six years rendered admirable service to the county as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district and is now serving as treasurer of Ann township. He has otherwise been active in civic affairs and has long been recognized as one of the public-spirited and influential men of the county.

It was in 1887 that E. E. Heggerston was united in marriage to Mary Ellefson and to this union six children have been born, Ida Mabel, Edwin Conrad, Elmer Morris, Adner Irvin, Olive Inge Anthony and Harry Clifford. Mr. and Mrs. Heggerston are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and for many years have been regarded as among the leaders in the local congregation of that church. Mr. Heggerston was one of the most active promoters of the organization of his home church and has served as clerk of the same since its organization.

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#### OLE A. HALVORSEN.

Ole A. Halvorsen, hardware merchant of LaSalle, Watonwan county, was born in Norway in 1866, and is a son of A. and Ragnhel Halvorsen, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, were married, spent their active lives on a farm and died there. They were the parents of four sons, namely: Halver, Rudolph, Annon and Ole A. The last named spent his boyhood on the farm and attended the common schools. He came to America about 1883, locating in Rio, Wisconsin, where he spent four years as a farm hand, then went to South Dakota and was there four years,



working on various farms. His next move was to Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota, where he learned the carpenter's trade and was engaged in the lumber business three years at Hazel Run. In 1900 he came to LaSalle at the starting of the town and here he has since remained and has played well his part in the general upbuilding of the place. He erected his present building and put in a stock of hardware which he has kept increasing as the country settled up until he now carries a large stock of general hardware and implements and does an extensive business with the people of this township. He was in partnership with his brother, Annon, under the firm name of the LaSalle Hardware and Implement Company, until 1915, when the brother sold his interest to the subject of this sketch, who has since conducted the business alone, but has retained the original firm name.

Mr. Halvorsen was married in May, 1908, to Mary Flogslad, a native of Minnesota, where she grew up and attended school, and a daughter of Paul Flogslad, of Watonwan county. To this union three children were born, namely: Inez, Amie and Oleta.

Mr. Halvorsen belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Mutual Benefit Association, and the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### ALEX SWANSON.

Alex Swanson was born in Sweden, May 15, 1849, and is a son of Andrew and Margaret Swanson, both natives of Sweden, the father born in 1819 and the mother in 1823. There they grew up and were married. In 1873 they came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, the father dying at the home of his son, Alex, not long after coming to the New World, but the mother survived to a ripe old age, passing away in 1905. To these parents but two children were born, namely: Carrie, the widow of Swan Englin, and Alex, the subject of this sketch.

Alex Swanson grew to manhood in Sweden and there attended school. He came to America in 1869 and located in Watonwan county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead of eighty acres in Adrian township. He worked hard and managed well and subsequently added to his original place until he had two hundred and twenty-four acres, well improved, including a substantial set of buildings. The first shack he erected was of lumber hauled from Lake Crystal, in Blue Earth county. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale on his place until 1911, when he sold out



MR. AND MRS. ALEX SWANSON.



and moved to St. James, buying his present residence. He was president of the Sveadahl Creamery Company. During the grasshopper years Mr. Swanson turned his attention to railroading, which he continued about ten years.

Alex Swanson was married on November 21, 1874, to Anna Anderson, who was born in Sweden on July 12, 1853. She is a daughter of Andrew and Kersten Jensen, who came to America in 1869, locating on a homestead of eighty acres in Watonwan county. To this they added another eighty. This land Mr. Jensen improved and lived on until his death, in 1897. His widow survived until 1909. To these parents two children were born, namely: John Anderson, who lives on the old home farm in Nelson township, this county, and Anna, wife of Mr. Swanson.

Politically, Mr. Swanson is a Republican. He cast his first vote for General Grant at his second election. He has been more or less active in the party ever since. He has served as a member of the township board, also the local school board for several years, and was one of the county commissioners when the present court house was built. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church and is a charter member of the West Sveadahl church, of which he has been secretary and deacon for the past twenty years.

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### MARK CHARLES WARE.

Mark Charles Ware, one of the best-known and most progressive young farmers of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, whose home at "Clover Leaf Stock Farm" is one of the pleasantest in the Bingham Lake neighborhood, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this part of the state all his life. He was born at Mapleton, in the neighboring county of Blue Earth, January 25, 1880, son of C. E. and Eliza Jane (Moore) Ware, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Wisconsin, who are now living retired in the pleasant village of Bingham Lake.

C. E. Ware was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, March 15, 1849, son of George M. and Anna (Kelly) Ware, both natives of that same state, the former of whom is still living, a prominent resident of Faribault county, this state. George M. Ware was a buggy-maker in Buffalo. About 1858 he moved to Medina county, Ohio, where he lived until 1862, in which year he and his family joined the tide of emigration that then was setting in so strongly towards the Northwest and came to Minnesota, settling in



Blue Earth county. The next year, in 1863, he moved down into Faribault county, where he had taken a homestead the year before, and there he established his home, becoming one of the most substantial and influential pioneers of that section. George M. Ware, who is still living on his old homestead in Faribault county, has been married twice. To his union with Anna Kelly two children were born, C. E. and Catherine. Upon the death of the other of these children, Mr. Ware married Lydia Mattingly and to this second union three children were born, Eva, Francis and William Vincent.

C. E. Ware was about nine years old when his parents moved from Buffalo to Ohio and was about thirteen when they came to Minnesota in 1862. He completed his schooling in this state and early learned the carpenter's trade, becoming a building contractor, which business he followed until 1900, his last contract having been the completion of an eighteen-thousand-dollar residence. It was in 1900 that C. E. Ware bought a quarter of a section of partly-improved land in Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, and there established his home, becoming one of the most progressive farmers and stockmen thereabout. He erected practically all the buildings on the place with the exception of the dwelling, including a fine barn and a silo, and brought the farm up to a high state of productivity. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Ware went in somewhat extensively for stock raising, with particular attention to the raising of pure-bred Short-horn cattle and did very well. He named his farm "Clover Leaf Stock Farm," and there he made his home until 1915, in which year he rented the place to his son, Mark C. Ware, the subject of this sketch, and he and his wife retired to the village of Bingham Lake, where they are now living. The elder Mr. Ware is independent in his political views and has for years given close attention to local political affairs. During his long residence at Mapleton he served for some time as a member of the village council and for six years was village justice. He also served for seven years as chairman of the township board and in other ways did his part in the public service. His wife is a member of the Methodist church and he has ever been a contributor to the beneficences of the same. It was on December 6, 1874, that C. E. Ware was united in marriage to Eliza Jane Moore, who was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, December 20, 1851, daughter of Henry and Sallie (Clark) Moore, and to this union five children have been born, George H., Grace, Mark C., Florence M. and May L.

Mark C. Ware, who is now occupying "Clover Leaf Stock Farm" and who is developing the same in accordance with modern methods of agricul-

ture, has given his best thought to the subject of farming and is making a success of his operations. Upon completing his schooling at Mapleton, he took his place on his father's farm and became a thoroughgoing farmer. Upon his father's retirement in 1915 he took over the active management of the home place and he and his wife have since then made their home there, Mrs. Ware, who, before her marriage, was Jennie Olena Larson, taking an equal interest with him in the progress of their agricultural operations. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Ware keeps up an active interest in stock raising and has a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle. He is a Republican and gives his earnest attention to local political affairs. In 1911 he was elected township clerk and served until 1916. Mrs. Ware is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and both she and her husband take an earnest interest in the general good works of their home community. Mr. Ware is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.

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### C. H. ANDERSON.

C. H. Anderson, former register of deeds of Cottonwood county and for many years one of the best-known and most influential residents of that county, now living in quiet comfort on the old homestead farm in Ann township, his first home after coming to this state with his parents back in 1868, is a native of the state of Wisconsin, but has lived in Minnesota since he was ten years old. He was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, January 31, 1858, son of Hogan and Ann Anderson, natives of Norway, who had come to this country some years previously, settling at Racine.

In 1865 Hogan Anderson and his family came to Minnesota, attracted by the glowing reports then going out from this part of the state, and located in Dakota county, removing in the year 1868 to Cottonwood county, where Hogan Anderson homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and established his home, he and his wife thus being among the earliest settlers in that section. Some time afterward when the township was organized it was given the name of Ann township, in honor of Ann Anderson, the pioneer wife and mother, whose influence for good in the community in which she and her husband had settled was felt from the very first. Hogan Anderson became a successful farmer and was a man of leading among his pioneer neighbors. In 1879 he retired from the active labors of the

farm and moved to Lamberton, where both he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring in 1895, and hers in 1898.

C. H. Anderson was but a boy when his parents came to Minnesota in 1865, and he early took his place in the pioneer life of Cottonwood county, even from boyhood being a prominent participant in the various activities of the rapidly developing community. He was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home farm and became a very capable farmer, at the same time giving much attention to the civic affairs of the community, and was early recognized as one of the leaders in the public life of the county. In 1883 he was elected register of deeds for Cottonwood county, as the nominee of the Republican party, and so effectively did he perform the exacting and important duties of that office that he was twice afterward re-elected, serving for three terms. In the meantime, in the early eighties, he had married and upon completing his term of public service returned to the old homestead farm, but presently went to Lamberton, where he engaged in the real-estate business for ten years, at the end of which time he moved to Minneapolis, where he continued the same line of business and was thus engaged until his return to the old home farm in 1905. He further improved the place and added by purchase of adjoining land until now he is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres and has long been rated as one of the leading farmers and stock raisers in Cottonwood county.

It was on March 16, 1881, that C. H. Anderson was united in marriage to Julia Alfson, who was born at Ridgeway, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1860, daughter of Alf and Thavan Alfson, who were among the early settlers in Cottonwood county, and to this union ten children were born, Anthony, Jessie, Alfred T., Josie, Joseph, Sherman, Maurice, Naomi, Viola and Everett, all of whom except Anthony and Joseph are living. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Alfred T. Anderson, eldest son of C. H. and Julia (Alfson) Anderson and cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Windom, was born at Windom on December 27, 1885, his father at that time being register of deeds of Cottonwood county, with residence at the county seat. He received his early schooling in the schools of Lamberton and Minneapolis and was graduated from the high school in the latter city in 1904, after which he entered the University of Minnesota, but before completing the course there was placed in charge of the bookkeeping department of the C. S.



Christensen Company, millers, at Madelia, where he remained for nearly three years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the First State Bank of Storden, which institution he served as assistant cashier for four years, or until he was elected cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Windom on March 1, 1915, since which time he has made his home in the latter city.

On November 14, 1911, Alfred T. Anderson was united in marriage to Lila Dossett, of Madelia, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Willard Holmes, born on April 21, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a very pleasant home in Windom and take a proper part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of all these organizations.

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#### FRANK D. KLOCOW.

Frank W. Klocow, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ormsby, Watonwan county, was born in Hardin county, Iowa, in 1873, and is a son of Frederick Klocow, who devoted his active life to farming, but is now living retired at Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Frank D. Klocow grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the common schools, the first to be established in his native community, and later attended a private school at Ackley, Iowa, taught by Prof. G. A. Graves. He also studied at Elsworth College at Iowa Falls. He started out in life for himself as a farm hand, later worked one year making brick at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In October, 1899, he came to Ormsby, Minnesota, before the railroad was built through Watonwan county, and here he engaged in the lumber business, under the firm name of the Ormsby Lumber Company, which he operated four years. He continued to be interested in this field of endeavor until 1911. In 1901 he helped organize the Farmers State Bank at Ormsby, in which he has since been a stockholder, and in October, 1903, became cashier of this institution, which position he has since held to the satisfaction of all concerned; in fact, has done much toward the general success of the bank all along the line. When he first started in the lumber business at Ormsby he had a partner, Samuel Farver, an uncle, who died,



whereupon Henry Klocow, brother of Frank D., succeeded Mr. Farver and the Klocow brothers carried on the business with ever-increasing success, retaining the old firm name and selling out in 1911.

Frank D. Klocow was married in 1905 to Ida Magnus, of Galena township, Martin county, where she spent her girlhood and was educated. She is a daughter of Peter and Julia Magnus, who located in that vicinity among the pioneers about forty years ago. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Klocow, namely: Fred, Myrtle, Howard and Oliver. Fred, Myrtle and Howard are attending public school at Ormsby.

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### GEORGE P. BRADLEY.

George P. Bradley, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the neighborhood of Bingham Lake, is a native of Iowa, born on a pioneer farm in Jones county, that state, April 19, 1869, son of Marshall B. and Ellen (Dowden) Bradley, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Indiana.

Marshall B. Bradley came West as a young man and settled in Jones county, Iowa, where he bought a farm and established his home and was there engaged in farming until 1879, in which year he moved to Boone county, in that state, where he farmed until 1882, when he moved to Calhoun county, same state, moving thence, in 1883, to Nebraska, where he spent the rest of his life. Marshall B. Bradley was twice married. On June 1, 1847, he married Matilda A. Lee, and to that union were born five children, Emily, Horace, Viola, Harvey and Myra, of whom Horace is now the only survivor. The mother of these children died on November 8, 1858, and on May 24, 1861, Mr. Bradley married Ellen Dowden, to which union were born eleven children, Benjamin, Ira, Emma, Alfred, George P., Ida, Letitia, Martha, Cora, Daisy and Clara, of whom Ira, Alfred, George and Martha are the only survivors.

George P. Bradley was reared in Jones county, Iowa, and grew up to the life of the farm. When eleven years of age he was compelled to discontinue his studies at school on account of failing eyes and his youth was devoted to assisting in the work of the home farm. As a young man he began farming on his own account in Sac county, in his native state, and after his marriage, in 1905, established his home there, continuing to make

that place his residence until he came to Minnesota in 1913. Upon coming to this state, Mr. Bradley bought a quarter of a section of partly improved land in Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, the farm on which he has since made his home, and proceeded further to improve the place until now he has a well-improved and well-kept farm. Most of the buildings on the place he has erected and all the fences on the place have been built by him. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Bradley has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade Shorthorn cattle and has done very well.

It was in 1905, in Iowa, that George P. Bradley was united in marriage to Ida Peck, and to this union two children have been born, Paul D. and Daisy I. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of their neighborhood. Mr. Bradley is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs.

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#### ELMER E. RANK.

Scattered here and there among Minnesota's population are men and women who claim, with a degree of pride, as well they may, the state of Indiana as the place of their nativity, for the Hoosiers have always been noted for their good citizenship, being, as a rule, thrifty and intelligent. Of this number is Elmer E. Rank, farmer of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county. He was born near Rochester, Indiana, November 11, 1861. He is a son of Amos and Sarah H. (Meek) Rank, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively. Each came with their parents, when young, to Indiana, in which state they met and married and continued to make their home until 1866, when they removed to Minnesota, locating in Rice county, the father buying land near Faribault, and there resided until 1869, when he sold out and in 1870 moved to Cottonwood county, and took up the homestead where his son, Elmer E. Rank, now resides. This place he reclaimed from the wild prairie. It consisted of eighty acres, to which he later added another eighty. Here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in 1885, she surviving until 1914, reaching the advanced age of ninety years. Their family consisted of seven children, namely: John W., Catherine, Jennie, Elizabeth, Amos Minor (deceased), Samuel L. and Elmer E.

The subject of this sketch grew up on the home farm and assisted his

father to improve the place on which buildings had to be erected, fences built and the wild growth on the fields subdued. He received his education in the district schools. He has remained on the homestead and is now owner of three hundred and twenty acres here, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation. He built one of the finest residences in the county in 1910, and everything about his place denotes thrift and good management. In connection with general farming he raises various kinds of live stock, especially hogs in large numbers, specializing in Poland-Chinas.

Mr. Rank was married on May 20, 1897, to Caroline Larson, who was born in Christiana, Norway, in 1869. She is a daughter of Segar and Inger Larson, natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in 1869, when their eldest child, Caroline, was four years old. Their other children were Lewis, John, Ludwig and Anna, who is now the wife of Carl Herg. The Larson family located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, near the town of Sharon, where they remained two years. In October, 1871, they removed to Weiner township, Jackson county, Minnesota, the father taking up a homestead there, where he spent the rest of his life, dying on October 27, 1910, his wife having preceded him to the grave on May 8, 1906.

Politically, Mr. Rank is a Republican. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and attends the Presbyterian church.

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### JOHN F. GUSTAFSON.

John F. Gustafson, a well-known and substantial farmer of Dale township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres situated on rural route No. 5, out of Windom, chairman of the board of supervisors of his home township, president of the Dale Rural Telephone Company, a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Windom, a director of the Minnesota State Grain Dealers' Association, vice-president of the Three Lake Farm Club and otherwise actively identified with the agricultural and business life of the community, is a native of Sweden, but has been a resident of the United States since he was eighteen years old. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Wrigstad, in Smoland, in the south-east part of Sweden, June 10, 1870, son of Sven Gustaf and Emma Caroline (Johnsdatter) Johnson, who were the parents of seven children, of



JOHN F. GUSTAFSON AND FAMILY.





whom John F. was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Augusta, who is living in Sweden; Minnie, who is the wife of Hans Mauberg, of Hammond, Indiana; Hilda, wife of John Olson, who is an automobile racing man, living at Milwaukee; Ida, a hairdresser at Chicago; Carl, who lived with an uncle and took the latter's name of Mallander, and Earnest, who died, aged six. The father of these children died and his widow later married and is still living in the old country. To her second marriage there was born one son, Axel Lauder.

John F. Gustafson received his schooling at Wrigstad and when a lad worked on a large estate, Lundholmen, of which his grandfather was the foreman. When eighteen years of age he came to the United States and landed at the port of New York on December 24, following. His objective point upon arriving in this country was Stanhope, Hamilton county, Iowa, where for eighteen months he was employed on the farm of Olaf Cealine. He then went to Webster county, Iowa, where for a couple of years he was employed on big farms in that section, and then went to Pocahantas county, same state, where for some time he worked on a hay press, after which he located at Gowrie, Iowa, and was there engaged, in partnership with Peter Shellstrom, in the tile business for three months, at the end of which time, in June, 1892, he came to Minnesota and settled at Windom. For three years thereafter he worked on farms in that vicinity, in the meanwhile, in September, 1892, having bought eighty acres of wild land in section 28, Dale township, on which, in June, 1893, he built the house in which he is now living, the same, however, having been considerably enlarged and improved since then. While developing his own place, he also rented additional land nearby and after his marriage, in the fall of 1899, began housekeeping on his place and has since made his home there. Mr. Gustafson is an excellent farmer, long having been recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of that neighborhood. He has added to his original acreage until he now has a farm of two hundred acres, well-improved and profitably cultivated; a good set of farm buildings and a modern and up-to-date plant for effective farming. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has a fine herd of Shorthorns.

Mr. Gustafson is an "independent" Democrat and has ever given close attention to local civic affairs. For the past fifteen years he has been a member of the board of township supervisors and is now chairman of the same, while for seven years or more he has been treasurer of school district No. 11. He has been equally active in neighborhood business enterprises

and is president of the Rural Telephone Company of Dale and a director from the time of its organization of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Windom, while he is serving as vice-president of the Three Lake Farm Club and a director of the Minnesota State Grain Dealers' Association, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. Mr. Gustafson drives a fine automobile and he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

On November 16, 1899, John F. Gustafson was united in marriage to Jennie Elizabeth Seashore, who was born in Sweden, June 14, 1881, daughter of John August and Sophia Christina (Carlson) Seashore, farming people, who came to the United States with their family in 1885 and settled at Gowrie, Iowa. After farming for seven years in that vicinity, John A. Seashore came to Minnesota with his family, arriving at Windom in the spring, 1892. He bought the east half of the southeast quarter of section 33 in Dale township and there established his home, later buying the west half of the same quarter, and there he lived for seventeen years, at the end of which time he moved to Buffalo, Wright county, Minnesota, in the vicinity of which place he bought an eighty-acre farm and he and his wife are now living there. To them nine children have been born, of whom Mrs. Gustafson is the eldest, the others being as follow: Axel William, a farmer at Buffalo, Minnesota; Charles Fred, a motorman in the employ of the Minneapolis Street Railway Company; Olive Amelia, wife of Theodore Wester, a carpenter at Windom; John Oscar, who is farming with his father in Minnesota; Harry, who is living at Minneapolis, in the employ of the Minneapolis Dairy Company; Albert Emanuel, who died at the age of six months; Paul Theodore, an assistant to his father on the home farm in Minnesota, and David, likewise engaged.

To John F. and Jennie Elizabeth (Seashore) Gustafson six children have been born, as follow: Grant Reuben, born on September 30, 1900; Olga Emma Sophia, July 30, 1902; Adelia Amelia Henrietta, April 7, 1904; Esther Cecelia Agnes, October 27, 1906; Victor Emanuel, August 3, 1908, and Florence Ida Wilhelmina, May 27, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson also have an adopted son, Walter Allin, now twenty-five years old, serving in the United States navy, at present stationed on the battleship "Colorado," and has served four years now at home. The Gustafsons are members of the Free Mission church at Windom and take an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, ever concerned in all movements having to do with the elevation of the standards of living hereabout.

## ELMER E. KNUDSON.

Elmer E. Knudson, one of the best-known and most substantial young farmers of Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Westbrook and actively identified with the general activities of that community, is a native son of Cottonwood county and has lived there all his life. He was born on the old homestead farm where he now makes his home, August 14, 1879, son of Erick and Mary (Sampson) Knudson, natives of Norway and pioneers of Minnesota, whose last days were spent in comfortable retirement at Westbrook.

Erick Knudson was the son of a saw-mill owner in Norway and was reared to an active, out-door life. He married in his native land and in 1870 he and his wife, accompanying the latter's parents, Samuel Samson and wife, who, with their other two children, John and Samuel, came to this country in that year, emigrated to the United States, proceeding directly to Minnesota and settling in Jackson county. A few years later they moved up into Cottonwood county and both the Knudsons and the Samsons established their permanent homes there. Samuel Samson settled on a homestead farm in Westbrook township and there he and his wife spent the rest of their days, living not far from the home of their daughter, Mrs. Knudson. Erick Knudson homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Westbrook township and there established his home. He and his wife were among the pioneers of that settlement and did much in the early days to help in the work of bringing about proper social and economic conditions thereabout. Erick Knudson was a good farmer and as he prospered in his affairs bought more land, until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres of fine land, three hundred and twenty acres of which surrounded his home. In their old age he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Westbrook, where their last days were spent. They were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Hilda, who married Adolph Peterson; Carl S., a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Melvin, Selma, who married Bert Johnson; Emma, who married Albert Kleven, and Clarence, William and Arthur.

Elmer E. Knudson has lived all his life on the homestead farm on which he was born. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and even in early boyhood took an active part



in the labor of developing and improving the home farm and in the eventual division of his father's considerable estate came into possession of the old original quarter-section homestead, where he now makes his home and which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Knudson's farm is well improved and his farming operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well.

In 1909 Elmer E. Knudson was united in marriage to Cora Hanson, daughter of Hans Hanson, and to this union four children have been born, Arvid, Myron, Evelyn and Oren. Mr. and Mrs. Knudson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Knudson is a Republican and takes a proper interest in local political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

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#### ALBERT ANDERSON.

Albert Anderson, a substantial farmer of Westbrook township, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Westbrook and a well-known surveyor and drainage contractor, is a native of Illinois, born on a farm in Kendall county, that state, January 5, 1871, son of J. A. and Sarah (Jacobson) Anderson, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who later moved to Kankakee county, Illinois, where they are now living. J. A. Anderson came to the United States in 1863 and became a substantial farmer in Illinois. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There are seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the first-born, the others being Nellie, Anna, Ida, Emma, Bertha and Jay.

Upon completing the course in the public schools of Kankakee county, Illinois, Albert Anderson entered the University of Illinois and spent two years there in the study of civil engineering, becoming a very competent surveyor. He then spent a year in a business college at Janesville, Wisconsin, and then for a year was engaged in the service of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Chicago. He then transferred his services to the Rock Island Railway Company and for a year was engaged as a station agent in Iowa, after which he became employed as a clothing salesman at Humboldt, Iowa, and was thus engaged for three years. He then returned

to the old home in Kankakee county, Illinois, and after farming there for two years returned to Iowa, locating in Kossuth county, where for eight years he was engaged in farming. In 1910 Mr. Anderson came to Minnesota and bought a quarter of a section of land in Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Upon taking possession of that farm Mr. Anderson began a general course of improvement and practically all the buildings on the same have been erected by him, while other improvements have been made in keeping with the same. Though Mr. Anderson gives close attention to the management of the general details of his farming he finds his time chiefly taken up with the extensive surveying and drainage contracts with which he almost constantly is engaged, he having for some years been actively engaged in the general surveying and engineering line, with particular reference to drainage work, handling both private and public contracts, and is one of the best-known contractors in that line in this part of the state, though his labors in that connection are chiefly confined to Cottonwood and Murray counties. Mr. Anderson is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

On January 31, 1896, Albert Anderson was united in marriage to Lena Gunderson, daughter of Ole and Carrie (Rasmussen) Gunderson, and to this union four children have been born, Corriene, Ruth, Alberta and Sarah. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Lutheran church and give proper attention to the various beneficences of the same, as well as to all neighborhood good works and are earnestly interested in all measures having to do with the advancement of the best interests of the community at large. Mr. Anderson is a Mason and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order.

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### SOREN P. JENSEN.

Soren P. Jensen, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm in the vicinity of Storden, chairman of the board of supervisors of his home township, a director of the Farmers Elevator Company at Storden and for years looked upon as one of the leaders in that community, is a native of the kingdom of Denmark, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was eighteen years old. He was born on September 8, 1868, son of Johann Peder and Marian

(Sorenson) Jensen, natives of Denmark, farming people, who came to Minnesota about 1882 and settled in Cottonwood county. Upon his arrival here, Johann P. Jensen bought a farm in Storden township, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, an industrious and thrifty farmer, who did much for the general upbuilding of that community. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Celia, who married Hans M. Hanson; Carolina, who married Carl Ruhlberg, and Ingerjenis, Ole, Peter, Tillapater and Tora.

When his parents came to this country, Soren P. Jensen was about sixteen years old. He had received his schooling in his native land and came with the family to Cottonwood county. He became a farmer and not long after coming here began farming on his own account. After his marriage he established his home where he is now living and quickly came to be regarded as one of the most progressive farmers in that part of the county. Mr. Jensen is an excellent farmer and as he prospered in his operations enlarged his holdings until now he is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in section 29, of Storden township, and eighty acres in section 27, of that same township. He has a comfortable home and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. The farm is well improved and the character of the buildings and general improvements bespeak the enterprise and progressive methods of the owner. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Jensen has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. He has given thoughtful attention to local political affairs and for above fifteen years has served as a member of the board of supervisors, now serving as chairman of the same. He also has served as a member of the local school board and in other ways has done his part in advancing the general interests of his community. He was one of the promoters in the organization of the Farmers Elevator Company at Storden and is a member of the board of directors of the same.

Mr. Jensen has been married twice. By his first wife, who was Inger Pederson, he has four children, Minnie, who married Walter Cowan; Myrtle, who married Clarence Miller, and Peter and Hans. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Jensen married, secondly, Hannah Halverson and to this union two children have been born, Cleo and Bruce. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are members of the Lutheran church and give proper attention to the various beneficences of the same, as well as to all local good works. Mr. Jensen is a member of the local lodge of the Modern



Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest. In his political views, he is inclined to be independent along local lines, preferring to reserve his vote for the best men on the several tickets under consideration rather than to commit himself unreservedly to the cause of one party, regardless of the possible unfitness of candidates thus indorsed.

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### FRED T. CHRISTENSEN.

Fred T. Christensen, a retired farmer, now living in Windom, is one of Cottonwood county's worthy citizens who has ever taken a delight in nature and existence, because he has been in touch with the springs of life, having spent most of his years on the farm. Mr. Christensen was born in Denmark, November 22, 1846. He is a son of Christopher and Dorothy Christensen, both natives of Denmark, where they grew up, were married and established their home on a farm, the father being a farm laborer, and they both spent their lives in their native land. Eight children were born to them, the subject of this sketch and his sister being the only ones to come to America.

Fred T. Christensen received his education in the common schools of Denmark, and he began life as a farmer there and when twenty-three years of age came to the United States, locating at Lake Superior, Michigan, where he worked in the iron mines for several years, then moved to Minneapolis and worked at loading lumber for two years, then went back to Michigan, where he worked at loading iron ore on lake steamers for one year, then came to Minnesota and took up a claim in Wadena county, but on account of the many Indians in that locality, who were not by any means desirable neighbors, he returned to Minneapolis and worked there until 1876, then bought a homesteader's right on eighty acres, for fifty dollars, in Amo township, Cottonwood county. When leaving Minneapolis for Cottonwood county, subject and wife drove all the way in an open wagon with two horses and two cows tied behind. They arrived in Amo township, where he had bought eighty acres during the previous fall, before moving here. He worked hard and managed well, added many important improvements and succeeded as a general farmer and stock raiser, and increased his holdings to two hundred and forty acres of valuable and productive land in one section and eighty in another section. Having accumulated a comfortable competency he retired from active life in 1906, moved to



Windom, where he purchased a commodious home and about three acres of ground, and is now enjoying his declining years in peace and plenty. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished all unaided. When he arrived in America he was without funds and was compelled to work his way to Michigan.

Mr. Christensen was married in 1875 in Michigan to Mary Jensen, a daughter of Jens and Christena Hansen, and not having any children they adopted a son, John, who married Esther Nelson, is now farming in Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, and they have two children, Delbert and Evelyn.

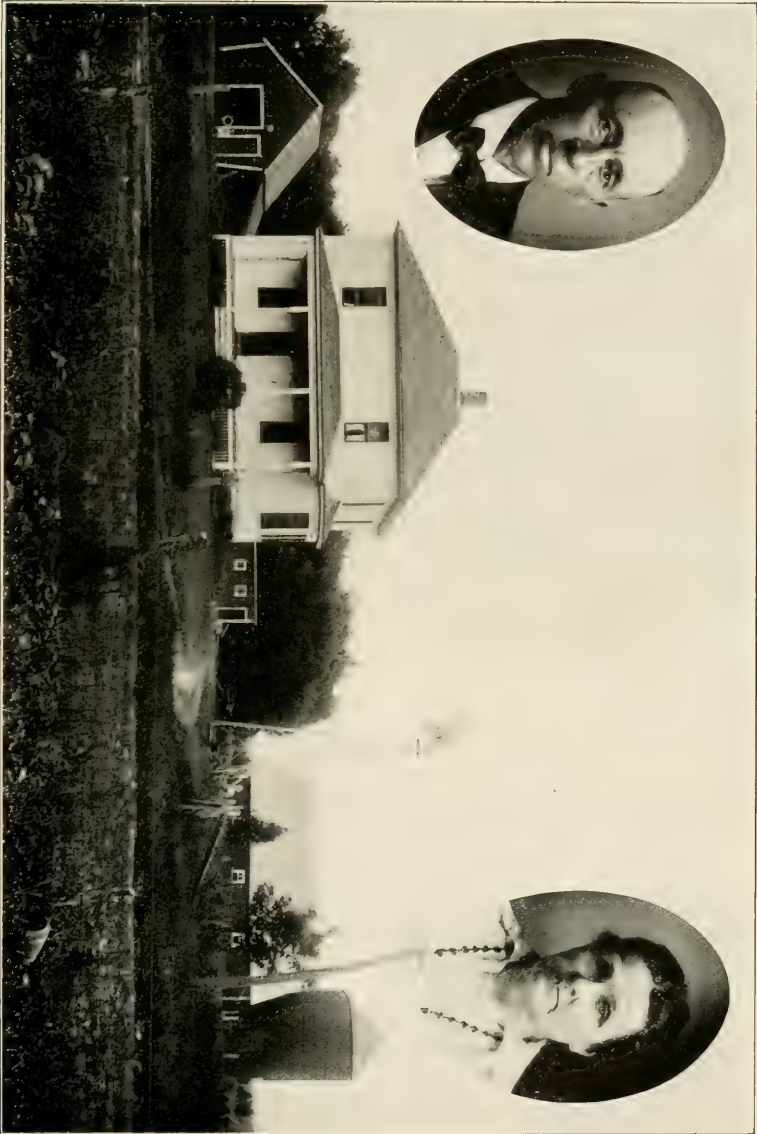
Politically, Mr. Christensen is a Republican of the old school. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### SOLOMON D. WHITING.

Solomon D. Whiting, a well-known and well-to-do farmer and stock raiser, of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, and proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of St. James, is a native of Vermont, born at Johnson, in Lamoille county, that state, May 31, 1864, son of Zachariah and Lydia M. (Spaulding) Whiting, both natives of Vermont, the former of whom also was born at Johnson, December 25, 1826, and the latter in 1836. Zachariah Whiting was a farmer and a man of considerable substance. He was a Republican in his political views and a Baptist by religious persuasion. He died at his home in Vermont in October, 1897. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in October, 1873. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Alfred E., who lives in La Feria, Texas, and Sarah L., who lives in California.

Solomon D. Whiting was graduated from the Vermont State Normal, at Johnson, on January 20, 1882, and for ten years thereafter served as a teacher in the public schools of his home county, at the same time being engaged in farming. He married in 1892 and continued his farming operations in Vermont until 1902, in which year he came to Minnesota and located at Madelia, where he lived for somewhat more than two years, at the end of which time, in 1904, he bought the quarter of a section of land in Rosendale township, where he ever since has made his home and where



MR. AND MRS. SOLOMON D. WHITING AND RESIDENCE.



he has been quite successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. His specialty in the latter line is Holstein cattle and Poland China swine and he has done very well. Mr. Whiting's farm is well improved and well kept, and he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

It was on February 10, 1892, back in his native state of Vermont, that Solomon D. Whiting was united in marriage to Abigail A. Stebbins, who was born at Enosburg Falls, in Franklin county, that state, March 7, 1869, daughter of Salmon and Cornelia (Eldred) Stebbins, both natives of that same state, the former born on May 4, 1840, and the latter, February 25, 1842, who were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Whiting was the third in order of birth, the others being Charles M., Ralph Ernest (deceased), Everett, Gertrude and Grace (twins, both deceased), Henry C., Rollin H., Lois C. and Carrie M. (deceased). Salmon Stebbins, who was a well-to-do farmer, died on June 22, 1903, and his widow is now living at Waterville, Vermont.

To Solomon D. and Abigail A. (Stebbins) Whiting seven children have been born, Lydia C., Zach, Robert A., Mildred S., Roland W., Lois A. (deceased) and Alice Mae. Mr. and Mrs. Whiting are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a warm interest in church work. Mr. Whiting is a Republican and gives his thoughtful attention to political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

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### WALTER A. FULLER.

Walter A. Fuller, a well-known, well-to-do and progressive farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, owner of a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Bingham Lake, is a native of Iowa, born on a farm in College township, Linn county, that state, August 31, 1862, son of Ambrose and Alice J. (Woodward) Fuller, both of whom were born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, members of old families in that community.

Ambrose Fuller, who is now living at Elmira, Illinois, is a son of Ambrose and Hannah (Munson) Fuller, both natives of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, the former of whom was seventh in descent from the Fuller who came to this country in the good ship "Mayflower" in 1620. Grandfather Fuller and his family left their home in Pennsylvania in the early



days of the settlement of the country southwest of Chicago and homesteaded a tract of land in Stark county, Illinois, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Their son, Ambrose, grew up on that homestead farm and as a young man moved over into the neighboring state of Iowa and settled in Linn county, where, in 1853, he homesteaded a tract of land and began farming. In 1885 he sold his farm there and moved to Marshall county, same state, where his wife died the next year, 1886. Four years later, in 1890, he returned to his old home in Stark county, Illinois, and is now conducting a general store in the village of Elmira, that county. He is a Republican and a member of the Presbyterian church. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being James M., Ambrose C., George A., Harriet J., Myrtle O. and Ralph W.

Walter A. Fuller received his schooling in the schools of College township, Linn county, Iowa, not far from Cedar Rapids, and grew to manhood a valuable assistant to his father in the work on the farm. He was about twenty-three years of age when the family moved to Marshall county and there he began farming on his own account. In 1890, when his father moved back to Illinois, Walter A. Fuller moved up into O'Brien county, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until he came to Minnesota in 1913. He had done well in his farming operations in Iowa and upon locating in Cottonwood county bought the whole of section 15, in Lakeside township, and there established his home. Though the place was partially improved when Mr. Fuller took possession, he has made material improvements to the same, particularly in the way of tiling and otherwise draining, and now has one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that neighborhood. In addition to his extensive general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade cattle and has a fine herd of Shorthorns. Mr. Fuller is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs.

Mr. Fuller has been married twice. By his first wife, who was Lillian R. Macy, he has five children, Mary L., Joseph A., Ambrose, Rachel and Orlando. Upon the death of the mother of these children he married, secondly, in 1903, Catherine A. Davis, daughter of L. L. Davis, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and to this union two sons have been born, Theodore and Walter A. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller are members of the Methodist church and take a proper part in all local good works.

## HERMAN J. FAST.

Herman J. Fast was born in Russia, June 5, 1860. He is a son of John and Sarah (Peters) Fast, both natives of Germany, from which country they removed to Russia, he with his parents when only nine years old, she with her parents when sixteen years of age. They were married in Russia and lived there until 1875, when they came to America and located in what is now Midway township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, purchasing a farm of a homesteader four miles north of the village of Mountain Lake, in section 18, the place consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, also bought one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land some months later. John Fast worked hard and improved his land and became very comfortably situated and there his death occurred, after which his widow re-married, her last husband being Henrick Regier. They moved to a place near the village of Mountain Lake, where she died. Mr. Fast lived only a few months after coming to America, arriving here in June and dying the following December. He was twice married, the following children having been born by his first wife: Anna and Lena both remained in Russia, John, Katherine and David all came to America. By his second wife, mother of the subject of this sketch, the following children were born: Henry, Sarah, Gerhardt, Herman and Elizabeth, all came to America; Agatha died in Russia.

Herman J. Fast spent his boyhood in Russia, where he attended school, and after coming to America went to school two years to the Mankato Normal, and one year at the Rochester Seminary, Rochester, New York, after which he took up farming, remaining on the homestead until his marriage, in 1886, when he removed to the farm on which he now lives and has since resided here, owning one of the best farms of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, which place consists of four hundred acres, well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Part of the land lies in Odin township, Watonwan county. This land was taken in its wild prairie state. He has put on all the improvements, including the present attractive and substantial buildings. He carries on general farming and stock raising successfully, also takes some interest in the breeding of fullblood Percheron horses. He is president of the Farmers Elevator at Mountain Lake, and is director and treasurer of the Mountain Lake Creamery Association. He is a man of sound judgment and excellent business ability and is one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Mr. Fast was married to Aganetha Becker, who was born in Russia. She is a daughter of John Becker, and came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, in 1878. To their union seven children have been born, namely: Herman, Aganetha, John, Sarah, Henry, Mary and Olga.

Mr. Fast has long been one of the most influential men in public affairs in his community. He is a director in school district No. 62, treasurer of Mountain Lake township, secretary of the Evangelical committee of the Northern District Conference of the Mennonite church. He is secretary of Bethel church, and is one of a committee of three to look after the welfare of the same. He is statistician of the general Mennonite conference. He is superintendent of the Ebenezer Sunday school, which he organized some time ago. From 1886 to 1911 he served continuously, twenty-five years, as township clerk. He has done much for the general upbuilding of his community, especially in a moral and civic way, and has also encouraged better farming and the raising of a better grade of live stock.

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#### AMEL BOLIN.

An enterprising young business man of Watonwan county is Amel Bolin, who is engaged in the lumber business at the village of LaSalle. He was born in Riverdale township, Watonwan county, August 31, 1889, and is a son of Charles and Carrie (Olson) Bolin, natives of Sweden.

Amel Bolin received his education in the public schools of Mankato, also attended a commercial college there, after which he went to North Dakota and secured a position as bookkeeper at Alexander, where he remained six months, then came to Madelia, Minnesota, and entered the employ of the S. Hare Lumber Company, remaining with this firm one and one-half years at Madelia, then came to LaSalle to take charge of their yards here, in December, 1915, and he has been here ever since, discharging his duties in an able faithful and satisfactory manner. He is also interested in farming in this county.

Politically, Mr. Bolin is a Republican. When twenty-one years old he was elected assessor of Riverdale township, which office he held in a commendable manner for three years, or until he left the farm. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Madelia, and belongs to the Lutheran church. He is unmarried.

Charles S. Bolin, father of the subject of this sketch, was born on



June 1, 1837, in Sweden. He is a son of Andrew and Ellen Johnson. His parents grew up in Sweden, where they were married and they became owners of a small farm there. They were members of the Lutheran church. The father was in the Swedish army two years. He had three children: Charles S., father of the subject of this sketch; Eliza, who remained in Sweden; and John, who is now living in LaSalle, Minnesota.

Charles S. Bolin grew to manhood in his native land and remained there until 1866, when he immigrated to America, locating in Red Wing, Minnesota, but after a few months went to Wisconsin, residing in Dunn county until 1869, when he came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, buying a homestead right of eighty acres, in section 22, on which he has since resided. He worked on railroad construction work when the road was being built from Mankato to Lake Crystal. He helped lay out many of the wagon roads in his township here. He has added to his original holdings until he now has a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He was one of the citizens who assisted in capturing the Younger brothers and their gang after the attempted bank robbery at Northfield. He is an active member of the Lutheran church.

Charles S. Bolin was married on November 28, 1874, to Karna Nelson, a native of Sweden, born in 1848, and to this union the following children were born: Ellen Louise, Anna, who is the wife of John Swanson, of Watonwan county; Nels, Eva, Matilda, Emma is deceased, and Amel.

Mr. Bolin developed his farm from the wild prairie and made all the improvements. He built his large barn in 1905, built his home in 1889 and remodeled it three years ago.

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### JOHN ADRIAN.

John Adrian was born in Russia, August 21, 1865 (Russian calendar). He is a son of Peter and Anna (Fry) Adrian, both natives of Russia, where they spent their earlier lives, immigrating with their family to America in 1875, locating at Dalton, South Dakota, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm, both dying some years ago. The father took up a homestead near Dalton upon his arrival there and developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. His family consisted of eleven children. He and his wife were members of the Mennonite church, in which they reared their family.



John Adrian grew up on the farm where he worked hard when a boy. He was ten years old when his parents brought him to America. He had little opportunity to obtain an education. He remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, then went to his brother, who owned a farm near Halstead, Kansas, and worked on farms in that vicinity for seven years, then returned to Cottonwood county, buying a farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres north of Windom, on which he spent three years, then purchased his present place of one hundred and sixty acres in Mountain Lake township. Prospering here he added another one hundred and sixty acres to his holdings, joining his first tract on the south. He has made many valuable improvements and has an excellent farm and carries on general farming and stock raising successfully.

Mr. Adrian was married in 1902, to Sarah Schultz, a daughter of Isaac Schultz, a native of Russia, where her birth also occurred. To Mr. Adrian and wife four children have been born, all living, namely: Isaac, John, Peter and Mary.

Politically, Mr. Adrian is a Republican. He is now a member of the local school board. He belongs to the Mennonite church, in which he is an elder and an active worker.

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### HENRY VOSHAGE.

Henry Voshage is one of the farmers of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, who believes in improvements, as the general appearance of his farm would indicate. He was born in Germany, December 5, 1865, and he is a son of Christian and Stena (Meyers) Voshage, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and established their permanent home, the mother still living there, but the father died some years ago. To these parents six children were born, namely: Chris, Stena, Henry, Augusta, August and Ferdinand.

Henry Voshage spent his boyhood in Germany, where he received his education. He came to America about 1885, landing in New York on January 2. He went direct to Holland, Iowa, where he worked five years, then began farming near George, Lyon county, that state, later moving to another farm in the same locality, remaining there until 1900, when he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, locating on the farm which he now owns in Mountain Lake township, the place containing two hundred

and eighty acres, which he has greatly improved, erecting practically all the buidlings. He is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, specializing on a good grade of Shorthorn cattle.

Henry Voshage was married in 1891 to Stena Shipper, a native of Holland. She is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Voshage the following children were born: Minnie, Anna, Christ, Bertha and Tina (twins), Ella, Susie and Henrietta. They are all living.

Politically, Mr. Voshage is a Republican. He is a member of the township board and the local school board. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

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### EDWARD E. SMESTAD.

Edward E. Smestad was born in Norway, July 16, 1863, son of Enver and Elena (Nestrude) Smestad, both natives of Norway, where they spent their lives, the mother dying in early life, in 1865. The father was a blacksmith and farmer, and his death occurred in January, 1915. To these parents three children were born, namely: John Helmer, a farmer and blacksmith, lives on the old homestead in Norway; Hans Peter is a blacksmith and lives at Windom, Minnesota; Edward E., the subject of this sketch, who is the youngest of the family, spent his boyhood in Norway, and received a limited education in the public schools. He partly learned his trade under his father. He came to America in 1884 and located in Houston county, Minnesota, where he worked awhile on a farm, then went to Albert Lea, hiring to a blacksmith. In 1887 he came to Windom, Cottonwood county, and started in the blacksmith business for himself, remaining there until the fall of 1899, having been in partnership with his brother Hans all that period except the first few months after he came to Windom. After leaving Windom he went to Odin and ran a shop one year, then moved to Murray county, this state, opened a shop at Clayton where he remained four years, then returned to Windom and was alone in the business about a year. In the fall of 1905 he located in Storden, buying the shop of Ray Ager, which he has since conducted with his usual success. He has enlarged the building and does general blacksmithing and wagon making. He put in the local waterworks in 1911. He has all modern equipment in his shop for turning out high-grade work promptly. He still owns and operates the waterworks.

Mr. Smestad was married, in the fall of 1884, to Gusta Mathison, who

was born in Norway, from which country she came alone to America in 1883, locating in Houston county, Minnesota. To this union the following children were born: Even, a farmer and butter maker, lives in Miller county, Minnesota; Anna Julia is the wife of Wood Anderson, a banker of Froyd, Montana; Helge is farming and lives at home; Roy Vincent is a barber and lives at home.

Mr. Smestad is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### GEORGE W. GRANT.

The Hon. George W. Grant, representative in the Minnesota state Legislature from the Cottonwood county and a well-known and progressive farmer of Lakeside township, that county, is a native son of Minnesota, having been born on a farm in Jackson county, this state, January 13, 1877, son of J. F. and Mary (Geddes) Grant, the former of whom was born in Ontario, Canada, September 11, 1845, and the latter, at Albany, New York, in 1854, who later became pioneers of Cottonwood county.

J. F. Grant was one of the organizers of Cottonwood county and served the public for some time in the capacity of county commissioner and also as a member of the school board. He had a fine farm in Lakeside township, where he made his home until 1904, when he retired from the farm and moved to Windom, where he lived until his removal, in 1911, to Eugene, Oregon, where he is now making his home. J. F. Grant was thrice married. His first wife, Emma Greenfield, died many years ago, leaving one child, Emma, who married E. J. Frost. Mr. Grant then married Mary Geddes and to that union six children were born, of whom George W. was the first-born, the others being Charles F., John G., James A., Fred R. and Mary A. The mother of these children died on November 2, 1902, and Mr. Grant later married Mrs. Hermena Schroeder, which union has been without issue. In a biographical sketch relating to John G. Grant, a well-known farmer of Lakeside township, presented elsewhere in this volume, further details regarding the history of the Grant family in Cottonwood county are set out.

George W. Grant was reared on the paternal farm in Lakeside township, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of that neighborhood and afterward attended the Windom high school for three years.



G. W. GRANT.





He then entered the Minnesota State Agricultural School, from which he was graduated in 1902, after which he began farming in his home township and has ever since resided there, being the owner of a fine farm. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Grant has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. He has given close attention to local civic affairs; served as township clerk for two years, as assessor for one year, and in 1914 was elected representative from his district to the lower house of the Minnesota General Assembly.

In 1906 George W. Grant was united in marriage to Tillie V. Swenson, daughter of John Swenson, and to this union five children have been born, Virgie C., Wilbur E., Mary C., Walter F. and Loren S. Mr. and Mrs. Grant are members of the Baptist church and take a proper interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Grant is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both these organizations.

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### O. A. OTESA.

A well-known and popular traveling salesman of St. James, Watonwan county, is O. A. Otesa, who was born in Norway, August 17, 1865. He is a son of A. and Hester Otesa, both natives of Norway, where they spent their lives, the mother dying in 1890 and the father in 1903.

O. A. Otesa spent his boyhood in Norway and there received his education in the common schools. In 1882 he came to America, locating in St. James, Minnesota. He secured employment as clerk in the store of G. H. Herrick, who is now deceased, remaining with him about two years, after which he was employed at the Park Hotel for about six years. He finally purchased four hundred and eighty acres of land. He engaged in the real-estate business several years, was also proprietor of the Boston Hotel for a short time, then lived on his farm in Nelson township for about three years. In the spring of 1912 he moved back to St. James and since then has been traveling salesman for the St. James Milling Company, and has been very successful, greatly increasing the company's business. He owns a fine residence in St. James.

Mr. Otesa was married on September 20, 1889, to Mary Nymon, who  
(13a)

was born in Norway, May 3, 1871. She was brought to Clear Lake, Wisconsin, about 1878 by her parents, Ole O. and Gunoel Nymon. The father is now deceased, but the mother is still living at Clear Lake at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Otesa, namely: Grace, born on June 2, 1893, was graduated from the St. James high school; Arthur, July 28, 1898, was graduated from the St. James high school with the class of 1916; Mabel, March 9, 1900, is a student in the local high school; Eunice, November 7, 1913. The wife and mother passed to her eternal rest on December 4, 1913. She was a woman of many estimable characteristics. Politically, Mr. Otesa is a Republican. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### JOHN GJERTSON.

John Gjertson, a well-to-do farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of two hundred acres situated on the state road three miles due north of the city of Madelia, is a native of Watonwan county, born on the homestead farm which he now owns and where he still lives, March 26, 1875, son of Andrew and Petroneall (England) Gjertson, natives of Norway, who were among the best-known and most influential of the pioneers of that part of the county.

Andrew Gjertson was the son of Jert Royseth, a farmer and fisherman, of Norway, who was lost at sea when his son, Andrew, was thirteen years of age. The latter grew up on a farm and also took to the fishing boats. He married in his native land and in 1866 came to the United States with his wife and three small children to join a brother who had previously come to America and had settled in Madison, Wisconsin. When the tide of emigration began to flow to this section of Minnesota, Andrew Gjertson and his family came out here and located. He homesteaded eighty acres in section 10 of Madelia township and there established his home. He planted trees and otherwise improved his place and became a very substantial farmer, adding gradually to his holdings until he became the owner of a farm of two hundred acres, a quarter of a section in section 10 and a "forty" in section 3, and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on November 22, 1891, he then being about sixty-seven years of age. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There are ten of these children, all still living, seven having

been born after the Gjertsons came to this country. Of these the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Peter, Marie, Belle, Helen, Elisa, Julia and Georgiana. The widow Gjertson is still living on the old homestead place. She is a daughter of Elias and Marie (Unstad) England, natives of Norway, whose last days were spent in Minnesota, they having come here in their old age to join their children. Elias England was eighty-six years of age at the time of his death in 1890.

John Gjertson was reared on the homestead farm, where he has always lived, and has been a farmer all his life. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and remained on the farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the development of the same. In 1910 he bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and is now the sole owner of a highly improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred acres. The house, which was built in 1904, is lighted with electric lights and is equipped with bath, furnace, telephone and all the conveniences of a modern farm house. The barn, fifty-eight by sixty feet, built in 1893, also is electrically lighted and the other farm buildings, including a silo erected in 1912, bespeak the enterprise and the progressiveness of the owner. Mr. Gjertson, in addition to his general farming, has devoted considerable attention to stock raising and has done well in that line. Mr. Gjertson has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and served as a member of the board of supervisors for six years, 1908-14. He is a member of the Lutheran church and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### JENS HANSON.

Jens Hanson, of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, was born in Denmark, January 24, 1864, and is a son of Hans and Anna Christenson, both natives of Denmark, in which country they spent their lives. The father was a soldier in the regular army of his country and served in the war of 1864 against Germany. His family consisted of eight children.

Jens Hanson spent his youthful days in Denmark, where he was educated. He came to America in 1888, when twenty-four years of age and settled in Illinois, where he remained three years, then removed to Minnesota, locating in Redwood county, where he spent one and one-half years. In 1890 he came to Cottonwood county, locating on a farm near Windom



on which he has since resided, owning a well-improved and productive place of one hundred and twenty acres, where he has carried on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Hanson was married in 1891 to Mary Anderson, who was born in Norway. She is a daughter of Andres Peterson and Helen (Larson) Peterson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, were married and spent their lives. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, namely: Victor, Walter, Myrtle and Orval.

Politically, Mr. Hanson is independent. He is the present chairman of the township board of Great Bend township, which office he has held for a period of about ten years. He and his family belong to the Lutheran church.

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#### MICHAEL P. MILLER.

The record of Michael P. Miller, of St. James, Watonwan county, doubtless could not be equaled by that of many men in Minnesota, for he has been a locomotive engineer continuously for nearly four decades and will in a comparatively short time round out a half century in railway service, and all the while he has been with the same road. His long retention would indicate able and faithful service.

Mr. Miller was born in Germany, October 14, 1849, and is a son of Peter and Anna (Thiel) Miller, both natives of Germany, the father born in 1818 and the mother in 1820. There they grew up and were married. They immigrated to America in 1872, locating at St. James, Minnesota, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1890 and the mother in 1912, at the age of ninety-two years. They were the parents of the following children: Nicholas, Magdalena (deceased), Michael P., Peter, Jacob (deceased), Nicholas L. and John.

Michael P. Miller spent his boyhood in Germany, where he attended school. Coming to America in 1868, he spent about six weeks in New York City, then moved to Scott county, Minnesota, where he remained until 1870, then came to St. James, in which town he has since made his home. He at once took a position as fireman with the Omaha railroad, with which he has remained for a period of forty-seven years, continuing as fireman four years, then was promoted to engineer and has thus been in charge of an engine for a period of thirty-nine years. He has been one of the company's most trusted and faithful employees. He took a home-

stead in Nelson township, Watonwan county, in 1871, which he held about ten years and sold. He has remained in the residence he still occupies for a period of thirty-seven years. He has seen the town grow from almost the beginning and has taken much pride in the same.

Politically, he is a Democrat. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was a member of the school board for a number of years and also has been a member of the city council for many years. He and his family belong to the Catholic church.

Mr. Miller was married on May 3, 1875, to Katherine Sieren, who was born in Ohio, February 14, 1855, and is a daughter of John and Margaret (Wagner) Sieren, both natives of Germany, the father's birth occurring on February 17, 1833, and the mother's on January 10, of the same year. He was brought to the United States when twelve years old, and she was a child when her parents brought her to this country. The parents of each located in Ohio and there these children were reared and married. In 1858 they came to Minnesota and located at Mankato, where they spent one year, then took up a homestead of eighty acres in Blue Earth county, to which forty acres were later added, and they continued to live on this farm until 1901, when they removed to St. James, where they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Sieren dying in 1909, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1907. They were parents of ten children, namely: Katherine, Margaret, John (deceased), Peter, Mary L., Ida, Elizabeth, Magdalena, Appelona (deceased) and Anna B.

To Mr. and Mrs. Miller ten children have been born, namely: Josephine M., John W., Herman N., Edward P., Ida M., Elizabeth I. died in 1888, when three years old; Rosalia M.; Caroline L. and Clara M. are twins; Frederick M. is the youngest.

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### FRANK E. JUDD, D. V. S.

One of the most successful and highly skilled veterinarians of Cottonwood and adjoining counties is Dr. Frank E. Judd, who maintains his office and residence at Windom. He was born in Wabasha county, Minnesota, January 10, 1875. He is a son of Lewis S. and Fannie (Smith) Judd. The father was born in Georgetown, New York, in 1841, and the mother was born in Connecticut. Lewis S. Judd came to Minnesota in 1856, locating in Wabasha county, with his parents, George Washington Judd and

Amanda (Emmons) Judd. The elder Judd took a pre-emption claim in Goodhue county, this state, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in 1900, at an advanced age, he having been born in New York state in 1816. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1891. To these parents three children were born, namely: Lewis S. was the eldest; Pemelia, who died about 1896, and Rosella, who is still living in Goodhue county, Minnesota.

Lewis S. Judd, father of the subject of this sketch, spent his boyhood in the state of New York, where he was educated. He was fifteen years of age when he came to Minnesota, and here he was married, first, to a Miss Russell, by which union one child was born, Nora E., who is the wife of Louis Schofield, of Goodhue county. His second marriage was to Fannie Smith, and to their union four children were born, namely: George W., who died on January 9, 1916, at the age of forty-seven years; Kittie M., who was the wife of Charles D. Reifsneider, of Oronoco, Omstead county, died in 1906, at the age of thirty-five years; Frank E., the subject of this sketch; Harry G., born in 1877, lives in Jasper, Minnesota. The mother of the above-named children died in 1882. For his third wife, Lewis S. Judd married Mrs. Ann Allen, in 1887, but this union was without issue. Her death occurred in 1900, and in 1901 he married again, and he and his last wife are living at this writing at Mora, Kanabec county, Minnesota, whither he moved in 1899. He was a blacksmith by trade, as was also his father before him. He moved to a farm in 1899, and in 1912 located in the town of Mora, where he has since lived retired. He was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in Company G, Third Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was injured while in camp at Ft. Snelling and was honorably discharged. Politically, he is a Republican. He belongs to the Presbyterian church.

Frank S. Judd went to live with his paternal grandparents upon the death of his mother until he was fourteen years old, then began working on a farm, and he educated himself. He continued farm work until he was about twenty-five years of age, when he took up his studies at the Western Veterinary College, at Kansas City, Missouri, where he made an excellent record and was graduated in 1901. However, he had previously been a student in the schools at Mazeppa, Wabasha county, Minnesota. In July, 1901, he located in Perham, Otter Tail county, this state, for the practice of his profession, where he soon had a good start and remained until February 23, 1906, when he came to Windom, Cottonwood county, where

he has remained to the present time, enjoying a large and satisfactory practice all the while. He has a well-equipped office and owns a pleasant home.

Politically, Doctor Judd is a Republican. He was made a Mason at Perham, Minnesota, in 1904. He is now a member of Perham Lodge No. 97, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Windom.

Doctor Judd was married on December 8, 1908, to Isabel Fawcett, a native of Cottonwood county, born here on May 6, 1871. She is a daughter of Thomas Fawcett, an early settler in this county, he having taken up a homestead here in the spring of 1869. His wife, Elizabeth Colquhoun, was born in Perth county, Ontario, Canada, May 5, 1838. Thomas Fawcett was born in England, August 7, 1838. He came to Canada with his parents in 1845. His death occurred July 28, 1886, and his wife died on March 27, 1906. To these parents the following children were born: James, deceased; Arthur, Mary, Isabel, wife of Doctor Judd; John, deceased; William is the youngest. Mr. Fawcett was an Episcopalian and his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church.

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### CHARLES H. SHANER.

The grand old state of Pennsylvania has sent out thousands of her sons in the founding and upbuilding of communities in the West. Many of these have served their adopted states long and well, and have left the imprint of their character upon the history of their times, carving their names and fame upon the very foundation stones of many of the great commonwealths. Charles H. Shaner, of Storden, Cottonwood county, is a native of the old Keystone state, and while he has not been a leader in great affairs of business or state, has been a good citizen in his humble sphere.

Mr. Shaner was born in Rockland county, Pennsylvania, in 1860, and is a son of M. and Jane (Stewart) Shaner. It is very probable that these parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they at least spent most of their lives on a farm and died there. Mr. Shaner's family consisted of eight children, six sons and two daughters, namely: John, David, Daniel, Emma, Charles H., Ella, Floyd and Ambrose.

Charles H. Shaner grew to manhood on the home farm in his native state and he received a good education in the public schools of Rockland county, after which he taught school awhile. In 1886 he came west to Wisconsin where he remained two years, then located in Windom, Minne-



sota, and was superintendent of the poor farm of Cottonwood county for about two years. While in Wisconsin he worked on farms during the summer months and taught school in the winter time. In 1892 he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Storden township, improved it and lived on it until the village of Storden was started, when he turned from agricultural pursuits to general merchandising, opening the first store in the new town, which he conducted with pronounced success until 1912, when he sold out and purchased the local hotel which he conducted about one year, then sold it and bought the building which he now occupies, and since 1914 he has conducted a cream station here, buying and shipping large quantities regularly.

Mr. Shaner was married in 1887, to Jessie I. Stewart, daughter of John and Floella (McIntosh) Stewart. To this union seven children have been born, named as follow: Clyde, Claude W., Percy, Erma, Cecil (a daughter), Earl, Devire.

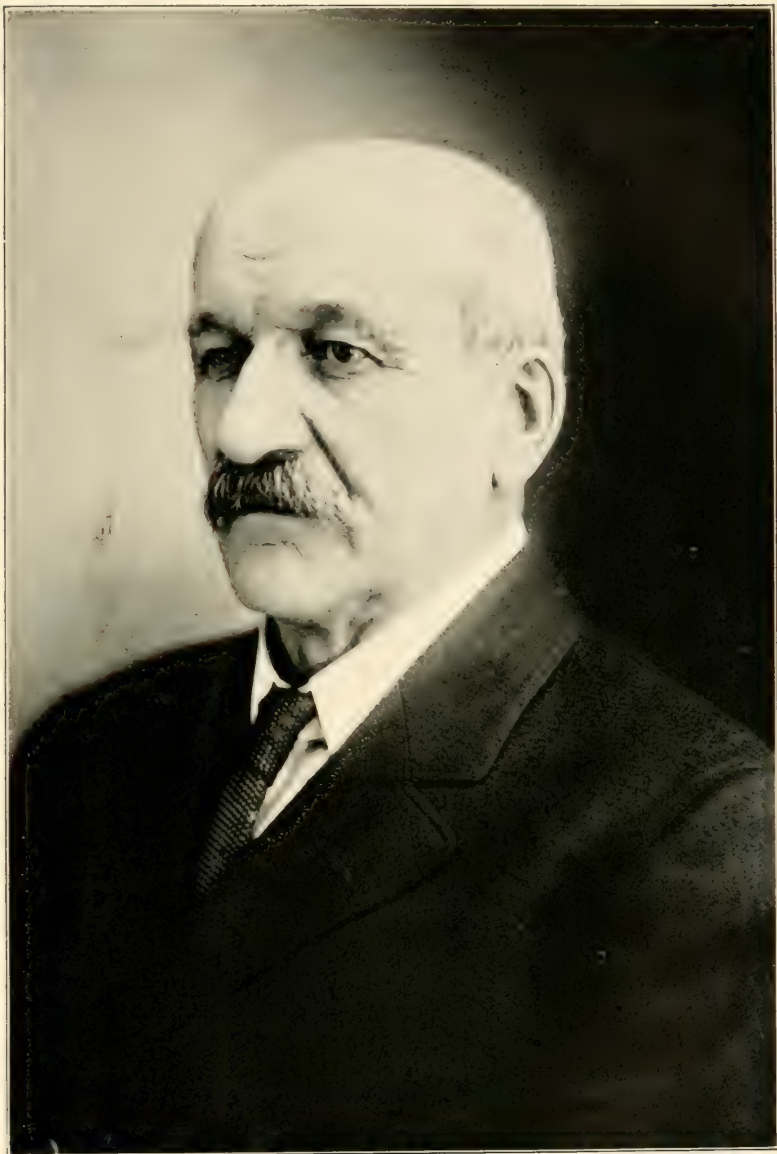
Politically, Mr. Shaner is a Republican. He is a member of the Lutheran church. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has for some time been active in local politics.

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### BERTON F. CLEMENT.

One of the efficient and popular public officials of Watonwan county is Berton F. Clement, the present incumbent of the office of city justice of St. James. He was born in Canada, October 1, 1848, and is a son of John B. and Clarissa (Clifford) Clement. The father was born in Woodstock, Vermont, in 1813, and the mother was born in New Hampshire in 1815. They were married in the last named state, and soon thereafter went to Canada, where Mr. Clement engaged in contracting. In 1856 they went to Dodge county, Wisconsin, and in 1874 came to Mower county, Minnesota, and took up a homestead, later moved to St. James and lived with their son, Berton F., about six months, and here the father died, March 8, 1910, at the age of ninety-six years. The mother died in St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, in 1901.

Berton F. Clement was eight years old when his parents took him to Dodge county, Wisconsin. He received his education in the public schools and when but a boy began railroad service as brakeman on the Chicago, St. Paul & Milwaukee railroad, in 1866, and when twenty years old was pro-



BERTON F. CLEMENT.



moted to conductor. He continued railroading with success until 1900. In 1871 he was conductor for the old St. Paul & Sioux City railroad, and remained with that company until 1883, then went with the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, with which he remained until 1900, then went to Watertown, South Dakota, and engaged in the real-estate business until 1907, when he came to St. James, Minnesota, and was proprietor of the Boston hotel for two and one-half years. In the spring of 1911 he was elected city justice, which office he has since held to the satisfaction of all concerned. Politically, he is a Republican. He is a member of the Episcopal church, although his parents were Seventh-Day Adventists. He was made a Mason on April 18, 1874, in Libanus Lodge No. 96, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of Concordia Chapter No. 28, Royal Arch Masons; also belongs to Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar, at Sioux City, Iowa. He is at present master of the local lodge, and is one of the prominent Masons of this part of the state. He built a modern home in St. James, where he now resides.

Berton F. Clement was married, in 1879, to Frances A. Cook, who was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, in 1860, and is a daughter of W. A. and Jane E. (Munn) Cook, who removed to Windom, Minnesota, in an early day, where they both died. Mr. Cook was a wagon-maker by trade. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clement, namely: Earle died in infancy; Anna W. is the wife of W. H. Dooly, of Esterville, Iowa; Burton L. died in 1907, at the age of twenty years; Florence N. is the wife of Charles V. Corliss, of Watonwan county.

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#### FOSS MERCANTILE COMPANY.

Two of the most progressive business men and influential citizens of Cottonwood county, Minnesota, are Julius E. Foss and William H. Foss, of the Foss Mercantile Company, of Windom. They are sons of Mickel and Mary (Komprud) Foss. The father was born in Norway, on May 14, 1847, and the mother was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on February 14, 1851. The paternal grandparents, Anton and Martha Foss, came from Norway to Wisconsin in 1868, and the following year located in Jackson county, Minnesota, where Anton Foss took a tree claim of eighty acres, adding to this until he had a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1883. Mickel



Foss grew to manhood and was educated in Norway, coming to the United States with his father's family. In 1869 he took a tree claim in Jackson county, Minnesota, of eighty acres, and devoted a part of his active life to farming, and later retired to live at Windom. His wife died in 1912. To these parents the following children were born: Mandy, deceased; Julius E., of this review; Emma, deceased; William H., of this sketch; Edith, Manick Edwin, Howard Elmer and Ernest D.

Mickel Foss, in partnership with Erick Sevaton, engaged in the mercantile business in Windom in 1877, for a short time, later removing to Lakefield, Jackson county, and established a general store in that place, which business he conducted for about three years. He also served as postmaster at Lakefield for two years. After leaving the latter place, he engaged in mercantile business at a number of places before retiring from active business life. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. His death occurred on June 6, 1916.

Julius E. Foss, the elder member of the firm, was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, on November 28, 1870, and lived on the farm until he was fourteen years of age. He received his education in the public schools. After reaching manhood he first engaged in the grocery business at Heron Lake, Minnesota, in which he continued for eight years. He had a natural bent toward this line of endeavor and soon had a good start. Upon leaving Jackson county, he went to Mankato, where he conducted a general store one year, then had charge of the Farmers Co-operative store at Lakefield for three years, after which he and his brother, William H., purchased the store of Ole Selnes, at Windom, in 1911, and began doing business under the firm name of the Foss Mercantile Company, which has been successful from the first and is now one of the most popular stores in the county, doing a vast annual business. The firm owns the substantial and modernly appointed store building in which its large and carefully-selected stock is housed.

Julius E. Foss was married in 1893 to Bertha May Wood, of Heron Lake, Minnesota, and to this union two sons have been born, namely: Cyril C. and Wesley W. Mr. Foss is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America, while he and his family are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William H. Foss, junior member of the firm of the Foss Mercantile Company, was born on May 24, 1875, in Jackson county, Minnesota. He received a public school education in Jackson and Watonwan counties, and

began his business career by engaging in the hardware and machinery business at Madelia, Minnesota, where he enjoyed a good trade for ten years. Disposing of this business in 1910, he came to Windom, and he and his brother, Julius E., organized the Foss Mercantile Company, and has since been engaged in the conduct of a general store with pronounced success.

William H. Foss was married in 1911, to Edna Clark, of Madelia, Minnesota. He and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking an active part in the affairs of the local congregation. Mr. Foss is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### GOTTLIEB GERTNER.

Gottlieb Gertner, of Westbrook, was born in Russia, March 6, 1855. He is a son of John and Katherine (Barenstein) Gertner, both natives of Germany, but they finally located in Russia, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father being eighteen years old when he went there and the mother was sixteen, and they were married in Russia, where they bought a farm and devoted their active lives to general farming. They became the parents of fifteen children. The father was a teamster for some time in the Russian army. He and his family were Lutherans.

Gottlieb Gertner grew to manhood in Russia and received his education there in the common schools. He immigrated to the United States in 1876, locating at Heron Lake, Minnesota, where his brother, Frederick, had preceded him. The following year he and his brother homesteaded in Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county. However, Gottlieb had in the meantime worked awhile in Iowa, to which state he returned for awhile after he took up his homestead. He helped develop a good farm in Rose Hill township on which he lived until 1905. He erected a good group of buildings on the farm, and added one hundred and sixty acres to his original place, just across the road, making in all three hundred twenty-two and one-half acres. In connection with general farming he raised full-blooded Poland-China hogs, the first of the kind in the township. He shipped them in from Iowa. His renter has continued the breed. Mr. Gertner did much to encourage the farmers of that part of the county to raise a better grade of live stock, especially hogs. Mr. Gertner became one of the leading farmers of the county, and he was able to retire from active life in the fall of

1910, and removed to his pleasant home in Westbrook which he built in 1900, where he now lives, surrounded with all the comforts of life. He has been a stockholder and a director in the Citizens State Bank of Westbrook for the past ten years. Politically he is a Republican. He was a school director while living on the farm. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Gertner was married in 1881 to Barbara Hobing, who was born in Galicia, Austria, and is a daughter of Daniel and Marie (Schrock) Hobing, both natives of Prussia, Germany, but they spent most of their lives on a farm in Austria where they died. They were parents of eleven children, namely: Jacob still lives in Austria; Marie, Katherina, Magdalena, John; Henry and Daniel are now (1916) both in the Austrian army and at the front in Galicia; Barbara came to Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in 1881 with some of her brothers and sisters; Elizabeth, Susie and Wilhelm. All these children came to America but the eldest son.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gertner one child was born, Marie, who married Oscar Ave, who is operating two large ranches in Colorado for a Mr. Thompson. To Mr. and Mrs. Ave one child has been born, a boy.

The following children were those of the parents of the subject of this sketch who grew to maturity: Jacob, John, Theodore, Fred, Katherina, Cornelius, Gottlieb, Michael, Samuel (who died in the Russian army), and Fredericka.

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### EIVIND BROGGER.

Although a young man, Eivind Brogger, cashier of the State Bank of Butterfield, Watonwan county, is holding a responsible position and is an important factor in the industrial circles of his locality.

Mr. Brogger was born in Norway, October 4, 1884, and is a son of N. C. Brogger and wife, mention of whom is made at some length on another page of this work.

Eivind Brogger spent his boyhood days in Norway, and there he received a good practical education in the public schools. In 1904, when twenty years of age, he came to the United States, locating at Butterfield, Minnesota. In order to properly prepare himself for a business career in this country he took a short course in Augustana College, after which he returned to Butterfield and clerked in a hotel for some time, then took a position as bookkeeper at Iberia Mill, five miles from Sleepy Eye, where he



remained seven months. In 1906 he was employed as bookkeeper in the State Bank of Butterfield. Being alert, courteous and trustworthy as well as quick to grasp the details of the banking business his rise was rapid, and it was not long until he was promoted to the position of assistant cashier, and in 1910 was made cashier, the duties of which he has continued to discharge in an able, faithful and acceptable manner to the present time.

Mr. Brogger was married on July 24, 1912, to Cora Fromm, a native of Currie, Minnesota, and a daughter of William Fromm and wife. She received good educational advantages and taught school in Butterfield prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Brogger one child, a son, has been born, Lloyd Christian Brogger.

Politically, Mr. Brogger is a Republican. He has been an alderman for the past four years, and takes a deep interest in the development of Butterfield. He is a Mason and also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### EMERY HAYCRAFT.

Emery Haycraft, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer, living at Madelia, where for some years he was engaged as the local agent for the Standard Oil Company and where he is now engaged in the fuel business, is a native of Macoupin county, Illinois, born on March 9, 1858, son of Isaac and Sarah P. (Jolly) Haycraft, natives of Hardin county, Kentucky, who later came to Minnesota, locating in Blue Earth county, whence, later in life they moved to Madelia, where Isaac Haycraft spent his last days and where his widow is still living.

Isaac Haycraft, who was a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, June 28, 1829, son of the Rev. Samuel J. and Elsie (Rhoades) Haycraft, the former of whom also was a native of that same county, son of James Haycraft, whose father also was James Haycraft and whose father also was James Haycraft. The Haycrafts are said to have come from England to America about the year 1740, settling in Virginia and emigrating thence to Kentucky about 1775 or 1780, settling near Elizabethtown, Hardin county. In that county, as is well known, Abraham Lincoln's parents lived and there Abraham Lincoln was born. In some of the histories of Abraham Lincoln, the Haycraft family is mentioned as a family of more or less importance in the county. Samuel Haycraft, a



cousin of the Rev. Samuel J. Haycraft, above mentioned, and who was clerk of Hardin county for fifty consecutive years, is mentioned in these histories as having issued the marriage license to Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, for his second marriage to Sally Bush Johnson. Stephen P. Haycraft, a brother of Isaac Haycraft, settled in Madelia in 1865. He owned a large part of the townsite of Madelia and several additions to the village are known as Haycraft additions and one street is named Haycraft street. He died in 1913.

In 1837 the Rev. Samuel J. Haycraft and his family moved from Kentucky to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he continued in the gospel ministry the rest of his life. Isaac Haycraft was about eight years of age when his parents moved from Kentucky to Illinois and he was reared to manhood in the latter state, as a young man beginning to farm for himself. On October 28, 1848, he married Sarah P. Jolly and in April, 1861, came to Minnesota and after a short residence in Dakota county moved to Blue Earth county, settling near Madelia. While there he enlisted for service during the Civil War as a member of the Second Minnesota Cavalry, with which command he served for about three years. In 1864, while he was in the army, his family moved to Madelia and eighteen months later, upon the completion of his military service, returned to Blue Earth county, where the family home was established on a homestead farm of eighty acres in Lincoln township. In the fall of 1892 he and his wife retired from the farm and returned to Madelia, where Isaac Haycraft spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1914. His widow is still making her home in Madelia. They were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom four died in infancy, the survivors being as follow: Mrs. Hattie A. Rhoades, of Montevideo, this state; Emery, the subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Eugenia S. Rhoades, of Madelia; Isaac G., of Solway, this state; Mrs. Liva Dodge, of Truman, this state, and Julius E. Haycraft, of Fairmont. The last named was postmaster at Madelia for twelve years; was state senator from the district composed of Watonwan and Martin counties for the four-year term from January, 1911, to January 1, 1915, and is now practicing law at Fairmont, senior member of the law firm of Haycraft & Palmer.

Emery Haycraft was but a child when his parents came to Minnesota from Illinois and he was seven or eight years old when they located on the homestead farm in Blue Earth county. He completed his schooling in the Lincoln township schools in that county and as a young man, following his

marriage in 1882, started farming on a farm nearby his father's place. There he made his home until 1892, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Madelia, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. From 1896 to September, 1915, Mr. Haycraft was engaged as local agent for the Standard Oil Company at Madelia and since the latter date has been engaged in the fuel business.

In September, 1882, Emery Haycraft was united in marriage to Jennie Sargent, who was born in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, a daughter of William and Sophia (Matthewson) Sargent, who moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota and settled on a farm in Fieldon township, Watonwan county. Mrs. Haycraft was the third in order of birth of the six children born to her parents, the others being Mary, who married J. W. Pond, Randall, Mrs. Adelaide Hewett, Franklin and John. To Mr. and Mrs. Haycraft three children have been born, Edwin R., who married Sue M. Wedge and has two children, Berryl and Rollo; Harry, who married Anna Reese and has one child, a son, Gordon R., and Vernon, who married Emma Bargland and has one child, a daughter, Verna Emma. Mrs. Haycraft is a member of the Baptist church and she and her husband take an earnest interest in the general movements having to do with the betterment of the community at large.

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### JAMES LEWIS.

One of the most extensive and highly skilled general farmers of Watonwan county is James Lewis, who was born in Ontario, Canada, September 21, 1860. He is a son of Thomas and Ellen (Nelson) Lewis, both natives of Ireland, from which country they came to America when young, probably about the year 1850, and located in Ontario. The father learned the tailor's trade in his native land, which he did not follow after coming to Canada, turning his attention to farming instead. In 1869 he came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, locating on the present site of the village of Lewisville, homesteading eighty acres, and this he developed and continued to farm until his death. His family consisted of eight children, six sons and two daughters, namely: John, Robert, Richard, James, Thomas M., Nelson, Sarah M. and Mary E.

James Lewis grew up amid pioneer surroundings and when a boy helped his father start a new home on the wild prairie. He attended school

a short time in Canada and went to the primitive sod school house in Watonwan county. He began life for himself as a farmer in Antrim township, and he now owns and operates a half section in the edge of the village of Lewisville. He has been very successful and has added to his original holdings until he owns a total of one thousand and forty acres in this part of Minnesota. He not only engages in general farming on an extensive scale, but for the past fifteen years he has handled live stock in large numbers annually.

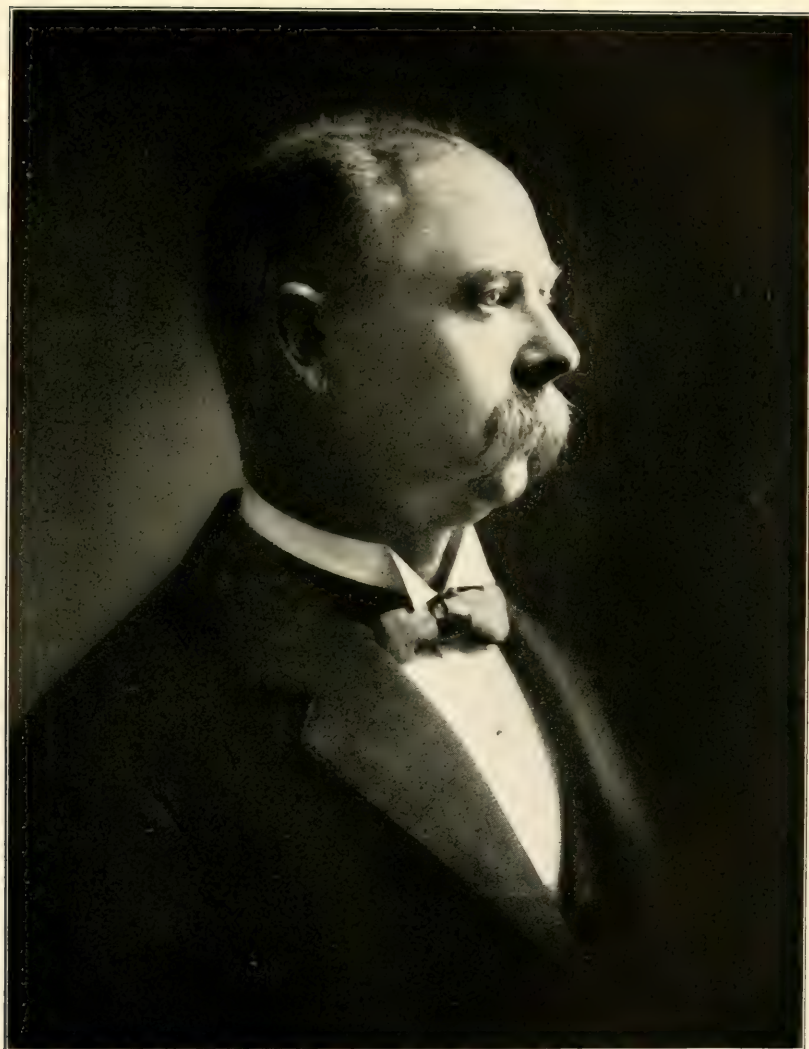
Mr. Lewis was married in February, 1886, to Bertha I. Martin, who was born in Maine, from which state she came with her parents to Watonwan county when young. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis has resulted in the birth of ten children, as follow: Leslie E., deceased; Roy W. is farming in Antrim township; Verne E. is also farming in Antrim township; Percy E. is assistant cashier of the State Bank of Lewisville; Flossie I. is a student in the agricultural college at St. Paul; Clyde R., Hazel I. and Ina M. are all at home; Ellen A. is deceased; Edna R. is at home.

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### SOREN HOLEN.

The late Soren Holen was for many years one of the leading citizens of St. James, of which town he was a pioneer and did much to promote its growth and general welfare, being a public-spirited citizen and especially active in church work. He was essentially a man of affairs—sound of judgment and far-seeing in what he undertook, and every enterprise to which he addressed himself resulted in a large measure of material success.

Soren Holen was born in Norway on December 10, 1848, in which country his parents lived and died, and there he grew up and was educated. He emigrated to Minnesota in 1871, spending a short time at Rushford, then went to Mankato. In January, 1877, he located in St. James and managed a lumber yard, which he purchased in 1898 and operated for himself until February, 1911, when he sold out and lived retired until his death, which occurred on December 5, 1914. He built up a large trade, and was one of the best-known lumber dealers in this section of the state. He built a fine residence in 1894. Politically, he was a Republican. He served for some time as a member of the city council, also as a member of the school board for six years. He was a Mason. Mr. Holen was a member of the Lutheran church and was very active in church work. He was a



SOREN HOLEN.





member of the first board of trustees in charge of the United Lutheran church at St. James.

Soren Holen was married on September 15, 1883, to Julia Johnson, who was born in Norway, August 29, 1860. She is a daughter of Peter and Andrine (Olson) Johnson, both born in Norway, the father on May 2, 1833, and the mother on September 29, 1837. There they grew up and were married, remaining in their native land until 1871, when they emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago, where they resided until their deaths, the mother dying in 1905 and the father in 1908. Mr. Johnson was a carpenter by trade and became a highly skilled workman, continuing in that line of work all his active life. His family consisted of five children, named as follow: Julia, Edward, Soren, Arndt and Peter.

To Mr. and Mrs. Holen seven children were born, namely: Harvey is deceased; Alma was educated in the schools of St. James; Pliny died when four years old; Inga was graduated from the St. James high school in 1908 and from St. Olaf College in 1912, and after teaching two and one-half years, including a short time in St. James, is now at home with her mother; Mildred J. died when seven years old; Hester, who was graduated from the St. James high school in 1915, is now a student in St. Olaf College; Mildred is attending the local public schools.

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#### REV. BENJAMIN COLE GILLIS.

As pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Windom, Cottonwood county, Rev. Benjamin Cole Gillis is doing a most commendable work for the moral uplift of his locality. He was born at Inverness, Megantic county, Province of Quebec, Canada, March 19, 1859. He is the son of William and Nancy (Robinson) Gillis, both natives of Ireland, the father's birth having occurred on August 20, 1804, in County Monaghan, and the mother's in 1814 in County Tyrone. She was a daughter of Samuel Robinson. William Gillis was a son of Robert and Catherine (McNabb) Gillis, who lived and died in Northern Ireland. William Gillis sailed from Belfast on the steamship "Boliver," arriving at Quebec on July 12, 1829. He located in that city, where he worked in a grocery store for about two years, then went to Inverness, Province of Quebec, entering a claim of one hundred acres of land, then returned to the City of Quebec, where he

remained one year, then went back to Inverness and entered another claim of one hundred acres for his brother, James Gillis, for whom he sent to Ireland, and upon the latter's arrival the two brothers farmed together until the death of James.

On March 4, 1833, William Gillis married Nancy Robinson, and to their union fourteen children were born, all of whom grew to maturity with the exception of one daughter. They are as follow: James, of Isabel, Kansas; John, deceased; William M., now pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Walnut Grove, Minnesota; Samuel, deceased; Robert B. of Bienfait, Saskatchewan, Canada; Thomas S., of Lunenburg, Ontario; Benjamin C., of this review; Ellen, of Inverness, Quebec, who became the wife of Robert Kean; Eliza, who was the wife of James George, is now deceased; Hannah, deceased, who was the wife of Robert Scott; Martha, unmarried; Nancy, who died at the age of sixteen; Rebecca, the wife of Rev. John Garvin, of Montreal, Canada, and Catherine, the wife of E. H. Brown of Cornwall, Ontario. William Gillis was a well-to-do farmer in Canada, owning in all six hundred acres of land, where he carried on general farming. His death occurred on December 27, 1889, his wife having died July 5, 1887.

Rev. Benjamin C. Gillis grew up on his father's farm and received his early education at the Inverness Academy. After leaving home he entered Leland and Gray Seminary at Townsend, Vermont, where he spent two years, then entered Wesley Academy at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, taking the classical course and was graduated with the class of 1885. He then became a student in the college and theological departments of Boston University, where he remained until 1890. In the spring of that year he came West and preached in the Presbyterian church at Canton, Minnesota, during the summer vacation and in the fall entered Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, graduating from the Theological school of that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in June, 1891, and the same year received his degree of Bachelor of Arts from Boston University. He joined the Minnesota conference of the Methodist Episcopal church in the fall of 1891. His first appointment was at Elgin, Minnesota, where he remained two years, then preached at Olive Branch church, Winona, Minnesota, one year, at Kasson, four years, also four years at Chatfield, and at Marshall, five years, after which he came to Windom, where he has spent the past nine years. He has done an excellent work in all of these congregations, greatly building up the churches he has served. He is a student both of the Scriptures and of life about him and is an earnest, forceful and entertaining speaker.

Rev. Benjamin G. Gillis was married on November 17, 1897, to Mary Lodema Palmerlee, daughter of Hon. William Henry and Helen (Cossalman) Palmerlee. They have one child, Bruce D. William Henry Palmerlee was a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, while his wife was a native of Jefferson county, New York. Both came to Minnesota with their respective families and were married in this state and spent their lives in Dodge county.

In 1910 Rev. B. C. Gillis made a trip abroad and visited his father's birthplace in Northern Ireland, also visited the Holy Land, Egypt, Turkey, the Balkan States, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France and England. Politically, he is independent and fraternally is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen, but first of all and above all he is a churchman and enthusiastically believes in the teachings, the spirit and the uplifting purposes of the Christian faith.

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### PETER J. FRANZ.

It was a fortunate thing when the Russian colony decided to locate in Cottonwood county, for ever since others from their native land have been coming here and they have made good citizens and established comfortable homes, benefiting themselves and us. Among this number is Peter J. Franz, a farmer of Mountain Lake township, who was born in Russia, October 1, 1872 (Russian calendar.) He is a son of John and Susanna (Dickman) Franz, both natives of Russia, where they grew up, married and established their home, residing there until 1878, when they came to America and located two and one-half miles north of the village of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, buying a farm of eighty acres there. The father was a tailor by trade and continued to work at it during spare hours on the farm. His death occurred about 1886. His widow moved from the farm after his death and is still living in the village of Mountain Lake. He is of German blood. Six children, who grew to maturity, were born to John Franz and wife, namely: Martin, Susie, Anna, Cornelius, Peter J., and John J. These children were reared in the faith of the Mennonite church, to which their parents always belonged.

Peter J. Franz received his education in the German parochial schools and in our public schools. He worked on the home farm when a boy and when starting out in life for himself, learned the painter's trade, which he



followed in the village of Mountain Lake for a period of sixteen years, becoming highly skilled. On April 5, 1910, he moved to the farm on which he still resides, in Mountain Lake township. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres and is a good farm and he is making a very comfortable living there.

Mr. Franz was married in 1900, to Regina Miller, of South Dakota, and to their union four children have been born, all living, namely: Oscar Jacob, Silas John, Susie Rosella, and Elmer Martin.

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### PETER A. RUHBERG.

Peter A. Ruhberg, now living in retirement in Storden, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, October 14, 1839, and is a son of Christian Adolph and Marie (Vogt) Ruhberg, both born in the year 1803, in the Province of Schleswig-Holstein. There they grew up, were married and established their home, but removed in 1846 to Denmark, where the mother died in 1871, the father dying in 1883 on a farm near Windom, Minnesota, having come to America about 1871, soon after the death of his wife. He spent his last years in retirement, living among his children, dying on the farm owned by the subject of this sketch. His family consisted of eight children, namely: John (deceased), Henry, Christian, Dorothy Henrietta, Louise, Peter, Sophia and John. This family have always been adherents of the Lutheran faith.

Peter A. Ruhberg received his education in Denmark. He learned the blacksmith's trade under his father, who devoted his active life to that vocation. He served in the Danish army from 1862 to 1865, and took part in the war between Prussia and Denmark, being in the Twelfth Battery and Second Regiment, and although in many engagements was never wounded. He now receives one hundred crowns annually until death as a gift of honor or pension. He immigrated to America in the spring of 1868, locating at Lyons, Clinton county, Iowa, working at various things, being for a time in the manufacturing business, then worked at his trade of blacksmith. Later he went to Olmstead county where he continued his trade about three years. In 1872 he came to Windom, arriving here in August, but he had taken up a claim in Westbrook township in June of that year, and pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres. He put up a blacksmith shop at Windom which he conducted seven years. In 1878 he bought eighty acres

of railroad land, one mile north of Windom, and in 1879 moved thereto, improved the place and carried on general farming successfully until in March, 1913. He added to his original purchase as he prospered until he with his son had a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres. The son, Adolph, bought eighty acres in 1883; the rest belongs to the father. He paid seven hundred dollars for the first land he bought here, and nine hundred dollars for what the son bought, and nineteen dollars per acre for the last he purchased. They sold out the last at one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. In 1913 Mr. Ruhberg and his son, Adolph, removed to Storden where the father has since lived retired.

Mr. Ruhberg was married in 1860, to Mattie Nelson, who was born in Udland, Denmark, and is a daughter of Christian Nelson. These parents both died when Mrs. Ruhberg was young. To Mr. and Mrs. Ruhberg the following children have been born: Adolph is a retired farmer; Carl H. is a banker at Storden; three daughters were named Rosa in succession, all deceased; Mary, who married Walter Larson, died in the fall of 1897, her husband died the previous year; Albert is deceased; Elmer E. is a tinner and lives at Crookston, Minnesota; Eva May, the youngest, married Herbert Erickson, a preacher at Joyce Chapel, Anoka county, Minnesota, who also engages in farming.

Politically, Mr. Ruhberg is independent. He served as treasurer of Great Bend township for two years. He is a member of the Baptist church.

The death of Mrs. Ruhberg occurred on November 3, 1910, on the home farm near Windom. She was a member of the Baptist church and was buried near Windom.

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### ELLISON D. MOOERS.

Ellison D. Mooers of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, was born in Franklin county, Maine, and is a son of David and Rosanna (Winslow) Mooers. The mother was a direct descendant of one of the "pilgrim fathers" who came over on the "Mayflower" in 1620. Both these parents were born in the state of Maine where they grew up and were married, removing to Dorchester, Iowa, in 1866, and the following year they came on to Fillmore county, Minnesota. In the spring of 1869 they located in Cottonwood county, David Mooers homesteading in section 8, Great Bend township, and there he spent the rest of his life. His widow spent

her latter years with her children, and died at the home of her son, Ellison D. Mooers, on the farm where he now lives. He was the eldest of four children, the others being named as follows: Emiline, Ann and Wellington K.

Ellison D. Mooers spent his boyhood in Maine and there attended school, continuing his education after coming to Minnesota, including a course in the seminary at Worthington. When a young man he carried the mail from St. James to Big Bend post office, prior to the founding of Windom, the year the railroad was extended to the present site of Windom. He was then sixteen years old, and carried the first United States mail into Cottonwood county, continuing as carrier from March until October. He then turned his attention to school teaching, which he followed for sixteen terms in Steele and Cottonwood counties, Minnesota and Floyd county, Iowa, being one of the first educators in this part of the state. This was in the days of sod school houses and other primitive conditions. During part of this period he lived at home, sometimes going long distances to his work. He then took up farming in Cottonwood county and has followed this line of endeavor to the present time, living on his present place since the spring of 1889. He owns five hundred and sixty acres in Springfield and Big Bend townships. He has put up two good sets of buildings and added many other important improvements, and he has some of the best land in this part of the state. He also owns four hundred and twenty-six acres, a valuable grain farm in Nebraska, and six hundred and forty acres in Oklahoma, on which cotton and other staple crops are raised. He carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, is a man of rare executive ability along agricultural lines and is an exceptionally good judge of live stock of all kinds, and large numbers are to be seen about his barns at all seasons. He has been very successful as an agriculturist, has kept well abreast of the times in modern methods of tilling the soil and general farm methods.

Mr. Mooers was married in 1879 to Ellen F. Pratt, and to their union two children have been born, namely: J. M., who is engaged in farming near Great Falls, Montana; and Vera, wife of Arthur Hanefield, who lives on one of Mr. Mooers' farms.

Mr. Mooers has been a very busy man but has never neglected his duties as a citizen. He has been chairman of the Cottonwood county board on three different occasions, and has held various township offices. Politically, he is a Republican, and has long been one of the local leaders of his

party, although never a candidate for important public office. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a liberal contributor to its support.

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### JOHN ROXIN.

John Roxin, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of the Butterfield neighborhood in Watonwan county, owner of a fine farm of eighty-three and seventy-five hundredths acres one mile from the village of Butterfield and actively identified with the best interests of that part of the county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was twenty-five years of age. He was born in 1864 and grew to manhood in his native land, where he lived until he was twenty-five years old, when, in 1889, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, locating at Welcome, in the neighboring county of Martin, where he remained, working on the railway section, until 1901, when he was made foreman of the Northwestern's section at Odin and has ever since made his home in Watonwan county. For eleven years he served as foreman of the section at Odin and then, in 1911, bought the farm of eighty-three and seventy-five hundredths acres on which he is now living, in Butterfield township and there he has lived ever since, he and his family being very comfortably situated. The year after he bought his farm Mr. Roxin was offered thirty-four dollars an acre more than he had paid for the place, but rejected the offer. In addition to his general farming Mr. Roxin has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. His place is well improved and he is carrying on his farming operations according to modern methods of agriculture. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local politics, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

On May 19, 1896, while living at Welcome, John Roxin was united in marriage to Eliza Wieg, who was born in Germany and who came to Minnesota in 1896, locating in Martin county, and to this union four children have been born: Otto, who is now a clerk in a general store at Ringsted, Iowa; Amelia, Herman and William. Mr. and Mrs. Roxin are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works,



## REV. ERDMAN A. PANKOW.

Erdman A. Pankow was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, May 2, 1849, a son of Rev. Erdman and Sophia (Moldenhauer) Pankow, both natives of Germany, where they spent their earlier years, immigrating to America in 1843 and settling in Dodge county, Wisconsin, when it was a territory. The father was teacher in the Lutheran congregation at Lebanon, Wisconsin, and in 1848 he became minister of the church of his denomination there, continuing preaching until 1905, although far advanced in years. His death occurred in 1907, at the age of eighty-eight. He was a grand old man in Israel and a powerful preacher in his day. He was connected with the church at Lebanon as teacher and preacher for a period of sixty-three years, a record that it would be difficult to equal. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1859. To their union six children were born, namely: Minnie was the eldest; Herman is editor of the *Democrat*, at Marshfield, Wisconsin; Rev. Erdman A., the subject of this sketch; Michael is a minister and lives at Waterloo, Wisconsin; Sophia died, leaving five children; John died when seventeen years old. The second wife was Mrs. Michaels, with whom he lived for a period of forty-eight years, and to their union nine children were born, namely: Augustine died when eighteen years old; Albert is a minister at Cambria, Wisconsin; Adolph is ex-mayor and now postmaster at Mansfield, Wisconsin; Anna was next in order of birth; Eva died in 1814; Agnes was the sixth child; Oswald is farming in Wisconsin; Pauline and Agela are the two youngest. The mother of these children had one child by her first husband, whom they named Louisa. This large and happy family grew up in harmony and were all much devoted to each other. Mrs. Pankow died on February 1, 1914.

Erdman A. Pankow was reared at Lebanon, Wisconsin, and there he attended the public schools, later studied at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin, being the first person to enter that institution as a pupil, the college being opened in 1865. He was graduated with the first graduating class in 1872. He then attended a theological seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, for three years, graduating therefrom in 1875. Thus exceptionally well equipped for his chosen life work, he began his career as minister at Bloomfield, Wisconsin, also preached at Winneconne, that state, for two years, then preached at Tomah, Wisconsin, five years. Ill health compelled him to retire from active work two years, after which he became a professor at St. Paul College, Concordia, Missouri, where he spent ten

years, then took charge of the congregation at Caledonia, Minnesota, in 1889, remaining there until 1911, when he came to St. James and has been pastor of the German Lutheran church here ever since. He is a man of profound education and is a forceful, earnest and eloquent pulpit orator and he has given the utmost satisfaction in all his work, whether as preacher or teacher. He is popular not only with his congregation but with all who know him.

Erdman A. Pankow was married on May 6, 1878, to Emma Kalbfleisch, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, September 16, 1859. She is a daughter of Henry and Barbara (Sheiffelen) Kalbfleisch, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America when young, both spending the rest of their lives in St. Louis, his death occurring in 1889, at the age of sixty-five, and her death occurred in 1904, at the age of seventy-two. To Reverend Pankow and wife eight children have been born, namely: Gustav, Arthur, Theodore, Carl, Helen and Angela, twins, deceased; Hugo and Eugene.

Mrs. Pankow is one of a family of twelve children, named as follow: Henry; Louisa and August are deceased; Emma is the wife of the subject; Carl; Lillie and Martin are deceased; Marie, Gustav; Katie; Julia and Barbara are deceased.

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### JOHANN W. KOBS.

Johann W. Kobs, a well-known farmer of Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of eighty acres in the vicinity of Westbrook, is a native of Germany, born on June 12, 1853, son of Michael and Eva (Stolz) Kobs, who spent all their lives in their native country and who were the parents of eight children, of whom Johann W. was the eldest, the others being Frederick, Hermine, Carl, Herman, Augusta, Emil and Gustav. The father of these children died in 1868, when the eldest son was about fifteen years old, and the mother in 1903, the direction of the home farm thus being early left to the eldest son. He married in 1881 and he and his wife came to the United States in 1881 and located in the state of Nebraska, where they remained for something more than seven years, at the end of which time they returned to Germany, but after a stay of eighteen months at their old home, they returned to America and came to Minnesota. Upon arriving in this state, Mr. Kobs bought a farm of eighty acres in Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county, and there established his home,

having lived there ever since. When he took possession of the farm it was wholly unimproved and he has made all the present improvements on the place, having now one of the best-kept farms in his neighborhood.

It was in 1881, in his native land, that Johann W. Kobs was united in marriage to Emaline Yeschke, who was born in 1860, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Gustav, born in 1889; Marie, 1894, and Martha, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Kobs are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in neighborhood good works. Mr. Kobs is "independent" in his political views. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well in his operations.

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### JACOB J. LINSCHIED.

Jacob J. Linscheid, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of the Butterfield neighborhood, owner of a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-eight acres in Butterfield, for nearly seventeen years clerk of that township and in other ways actively identified with the interests of that part of Watonwan county, is a native of the kingdom of Austria, born on July 25, 1863, son of John and Elizabeth Linscheid, who came to Minnesota in 1881, arriving in Watonwan county on July 1, of that year.

Upon his arrival in Watonwan county, John Linscheid bought a quarter of a section of land in Butterfield township and there established his home, soon becoming one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. As he prospered in his farming operations he added to his holdings until he became the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of fine land. He was a Republican and took an active interest in local political affairs. His wife died in 1907, at the age of seventy-six years, and he afterwards retired to the village of Butterfield, where his death occurred in 1912, he then being seventy-eight years of age. He and his wife were earnest members of the Mennonite church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being John, Elizabeth, Rudolph, Robert, Edward and Wilhelmina, all of whom are living except Robert.

Jacob J. Linscheid was eighteen years old when he came to Minnesota with his parents in 1881 and he set himself to the work of farming, eventually becoming the owner of his present fine farm of two hundred and fifty-



eight acres in the vicinity of Butterfield, where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. From the very beginning of his farming operations, Mr. Linscheid adopted modern methods in the work of his farm and has developed one of the best farms in the county. The place is well improved, systematically tiled and well equipped for up-to-date farming, and its owner has long been recognized as one of the leading farmers of that part of the county. Mr. Linscheid is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in the civic affairs of his home township, for nearly seventeen years having been clerk of the township and in other ways doing what he can to advance the common interest thereabout.

In 1882, when nineteen years of age, Jacob J. Linscheid was united in marriage to Susanna Hubin, sister of the Rev. Daniel Hubin, of Butterfield, and to this union ten children have been born, Jacob, Lizzie, Rudolph, Marie (deceased), Marie, Herbert, Bertha, Robert, Elma and Ernest. Mr. and Mrs. Linscheid are active members of the Mennonite church and take a warm interest in all movements having to do with the general social uplift of the community in which they live, being among the leaders in all such movements thereabout.

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### C. O. BRAATHUN,

C. O. Braathun, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Storden, and actively identified with the best interests of that community, is a native of Norway, born on September 24, 1876, son of Ole and Bol (Aarvig) Braathun, natives of that same country and the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Ole, Margaret, Lars, Anna, Peter and John. After the death of the mother of these children, Ole Braathun married, secondly, Kari Oyre, and to that union two children were born, Jens and Bol. Ole Braathun was a farmer and all his life was spent in his native land.

C. O. Braathun was reared on a farm and received his education in the public schools of his native land. When fifteen years of age, in 1892, he came to the United States and made his way to Iowa. He had no one he knew in this country, and for some time after his arrival here had a hard struggle to get along, but he presently obtained employment in the railroad service in Iowa and was there thus engaged for nine years, at the end of



which time, in 1902, he came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since and where he has done very well. Upon Mr. Braathun's arrival in Cottonwood county he began working on farms in Storden township and was thus engaged for some time. After his marriage, in 1904, he began to farm as a renter on his own account, and in 1909 bought a farm of eighty acres, where he now lives and where for the last two years has made his home. He improved the place in good shape, erecting good buildings and presently was very comfortably established. He prospered in his farming operations and in 1911 bought a tract of forty acres adjoining his home place and is now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres and is accounted one of the substantial citizens of that community. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Braathun has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well.

In 1904 C. O. Braathun was united in marriage to Anna Pederson, daughter of Eli Pederson, of Benton county, Iowa, which union has been without issue. Mr. and Mrs. Braathun are earnest members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest, and Mr. Braathun has served as a member of the choir in the church. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

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#### REV. ALGOT THEO. LUNDHOLM.

The Rev. Algot Theo. Lundholm, pastor of the East Sveadahl Swedish Lutheran church in Nelson township, Watonwan county, and of the church of the same denomination at St. James, with residence at East Svendahl, is a native of Sweden, but has been a resident of this country since he was eight years of age, most all of which time he has spent in Minnesota. He was born on March 21, 1875, son of Jonas Peter and Greta Lisa Lundholm, natives of Sweden, who left their farm there in 1883 and with their family came to the United States, proceeding directly to Minnesota and locating in Sibley county. Upon arriving there Jonas P. Lundholm bought a farm in the near vicinity of Winthrop and there established his home, becoming a substantial and influential farmer. In 1898 he retired from the farm and moved to Winthrop, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1913. His widow is still living at Winthrop. They were the parents of

twelve children, nine of whom are still living, but Algot Theo. is the only one residing in this section of the state.

Upon completing the course in the public schools of Winthrop, A. T. Lundholm entered Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from that institution in 1899. Having devoted his life to the gospel ministry, he then entered Augustana Seminary at Rock Island, Illinois, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1902. In June of that year, at Ishpeming, Michigan, he was ordained to the ministry of the Swedish Lutheran church and in the same year accepted a call from the church of his faith at Aledo, Illinois, where he served as pastor until accepting his present pastorate in August, 1905. Since coming to this parish the Rev. A. T. Lundholm has done much to advance the various interests of the same, both in a spiritual and in a material way, and has done a good work both at East Sveadahl and at St. James, his parish comprising the churches of his faith at both points. His residence is at the former point and since locating there he has caused to be erected a fine new, modern parsonage, situated near the church, the latter of which is one of the finest country churches in Watonwan county, the church and the parsonage being surrounded by a beautiful lawn and the general appointments of both being in full keeping with modern demands. The Rev. Mr. Lundholm has a flourishing parish and is constantly adding to it. He is a progressive, public-spirited citizen and takes a warm interest in general public affairs, being a potent factor in the general development of the community in which he labors so effectively. In the counsels of his church, Mr. Lundholm occupies a high place, and there are few ministers of his communion who have a wider acquaintance than he. For some time he has been president of the board of directors of Gustavus Adolphus College, his *alma mater*, and in that connection has done much for the promotion of the interests of the college and the general cause of education hereabout. In political views, Mr. Lundholm is inclined to be "independent," reserving his right to vote only for such men as he regards best fitted for public office, and in this way wields an influence for good in the local political field.

On October 29, 1902, a few months after his ordination to the gospel ministry, the Rev. Algot Theo. Lundholm was united in marriage to Lydia Marie Olson, daughter of John Olson and wife, of Minneapolis, and to this union four children have been born, Einar Mauritz, Harald Theophilus, Brynolf Emanuel and Frydolf Nathanael. Mrs. Lundholm is a competent helpmeet to her husband in the exacting labors of his difficult field and both are held in the very highest esteem throughout the entire community.

## FRANK GALL.

Frank Gall, a well-known, well-to-do and progressive farmer of Rose-dale township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township and actively identified with the general affairs of his home community, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Mankato, April 17, 1868, son of Michael and Mary (Hermann) Gall, the former a native of Germany, born on June 22, 1822, and the latter, of Austria, born on April 26, 1834, who is still living on the old homestead farm in Rosendale township, where she and her husband settled in the early days of the settlement of this part of the state.

Michael Gall and Mary Hermann were married in Germany and lived there until they came to this country in the spring of 1867, locating in Mankato, this state, in June of that year. There they remained eleven months and during the time of their residence there the subject of this sketch was born. The next spring they came over into Watonwan county, arriving there on May 12, 1868, and settled on a tract of eighty acres which Michael Gall had homesteaded in section 22 of Rosendale township, being thus among the earlier settlers of that part of the county. Michael Gall built a shanty on his homestead tract and began to develop his farm, but what with hard times, crop failures and the grasshopper scourges he faced a hard struggle for the first few years and it was twelve years before he was able to supplant the shanty with a suitable dwelling place for his family. After a time, however, his affairs began to prosper and he presently bought an adjoining "eighty" in section 21. He set out a grove, made substantial improvements to his place and finally became very well circumstanced, one of the well-to-do farmers of that neighborhood. He was a Democrat and took an active part in local political affairs, having served as township treasurer for ten years and for some time as highway overseer in his district. His death occurred on December 25, 1906. For some years thereafter his widow made her home in St. James, but is now living with her son, Frank, on the old home farm. Michael Gall was a member of the Catholic church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom Frank was the seventh in order of birth, the others being Mary, Katie, George, Andrew, Annie, Margaret, Mary Catherine, Anna Cleora and Magdaline, all of whom are living save Mary, who died before the family came to this country; Andrew, who died in St. Paul at the age of thirty-eight, and Annie, who died in Germany when eighteen months old.



Frank Gall was reared on the homestead farm in Rosendale township, receiving his schooling in the local schools and has lived on the old home place, which he now owns, all his life. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. He is carrying on his farming operations according to modern methods of agriculture and has made many excellent improvements to the old home place, being regarded as one of the most progressive farmers in that neighborhood. Mr. Gall is independent in his political views and has never sought public office. He is a member of the Catholic church and takes a proper interest in parish affairs.

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### OTTO SENST.

Otto Senst, a well-known and substantial farmer of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, who is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres surrounding his home in that township and three hundred and twenty acres in Storden township, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in the near vicinity of Red Wing, in Goodhue county, April 11, 1868, son of Gottfried and Henrietta (Pultz) Senst, both now deceased, natives of Germany, the former of whom was a weaver in his native land, who came to the United States in the early sixties, proceeding directly to Minnesota and settling in Goodhue county, where Gottfried Senst farmed for about five years, at the end of which time he moved with his family to Wabasha county, where he spent the rest of his active life, upon his retirement making his home with his son, Otto, in Cottonwood county, where he died. He and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom Otto was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Henrietta, Fredericka, Maria, Anna, Herman and Siegmund.

Otto Senst was but four years old when his parents moved from Goodhue county to Wabasha county and on the paternal farm in the latter county he grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood school and becoming a very proficient farmer, remaining there until 1891, in which year he moved to Cottonwood county, locating on his present place in Amboy township, where he has lived ever since. Mr. Senst has been quite successful in his farming operations and in addition to the quarter section



surrounding his home, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated, he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Storden township. His farm is well improved and he is looked upon as one of the progressive farmers of his neighborhood. Mr. Senst is a Republican and has served on the local school board.

Mr. Senst married Wilhelmine Uebe and to this union five children have been born, Walter, Carl, Paul, Alfred and Clarence. Mr. and Mrs. Senst are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in parish affairs as well as in all movements having to do with the advancement of the common interests of their home neighborhood.

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### JOHAN ROLF, D. D. S.

The science of dentistry has an able exponent in Watonwan county in the person of Dr. Johan Rolf, who left no stone unturned whereby he might attain the skill of the greatest followers of this science in the country, believing in keeping up with modern twentieth century methods, and he is therefore meeting with pronounced success in his chosen profession.

Johan Rolf was born in St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa, October 26, 1875, a son of Rev. J. and Rakel Olsen, both natives of Norway, the father born about 1835 and the mother about 1837. They grew up in their native land and there were married. They emigrated to America about 1860 and settled at Paxton, Illinois, where the father taught for some time in the Swedish College, and there was ordained a minister in the Lutheran church—ordained by Reverend Haselquist. His first charge as minister was at Green Bay, Wisconsin. From there he went to St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1863, succeeding the Rev. C. M. Clausen. This was the first Norwegian conference church in Iowa. He was pastor there for some time, also at other churches, including Deer Creek, Rockford, Osage, Adams and Six Mile Grove. He was foreman of the conference for a period of ten years and was the leader in the formation of the United Lutheran church. He became widely known and was one of the leading divines of his church in his day in the West. He retired after forty years of faithful and able service, and spent his last days in Minneapolis with his son, O. O. Erling, his death occurring in 1911. His wife died in 1909. They were the parents of the following children: Sigurd is a minister at Cooperstown, North Dakota; Helga is a pianist in Minneapolis; Mollie is



JOHAN ROLF, D. D. S.



the wife of Prof. J. E. Granrud, of the University of Minnesota; O. O. Erling is cashier of the South Side State Bank of Minneapolis; Johan Rolf, the subject of this sketch; Olga is the wife of Peter Field, professor of mathematics in the University of Michigan.

Johan Rolf received a good education in the public schools and the St. Ansgar Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1894, later spending one year in the University of Minnesota. He was graduated from the dental department of that institution in 1898, having made an excellent record. He came to St. James the same year and has remained here continuously to the present time. He has enjoyed a large and growing practice all the while, and has met with much success from the first. He has a neatly kept and well equipped dental parlor, and he has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession.

Dr. Johan Rolf was married, in 1899, to Jennie M. Olson, of Minneapolis. She was born in Norway in 1877, and in 1880 her parents brought her to Minneapolis, where she grew up and was educated. She is a daughter of C. F. and Lena Olson. The father died in 1914. The mother is making her home with Doctor Rolf and wife in St. James. The union of the Doctor and his wife has resulted in the birth of three children, namely: Nora, born on October 24, 1900; Karl, July 14, 1902, and Lloyd, May 11, 1904.

Politically, Doctor Rolf is a Democrat. He is a member of the city council, and he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### THEO ENGLIN.

Theo Englin was born in the province of Scania, Sweden, on March 1, 1867, a son of Andrew and Elna (Person) Englin, both natives of Sweden, the former of whom was born on February 24, 1840, and the latter on May 24, 1843.

Andrew Englin, the father of the subject of this review, was a farm laborer in his native country. He came to America in 1881, coming first to Chicago, where he remained for a short time, then went to Wesley, Iowa. In 1882 he came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, and a year later located on a farm in section 1, Adrian township. He had a farm of two hundred acres in that township, which he cultivated and where he made his home



until the spring of 1907, when he leased his farm and removed to St. James. He purchased a tract of land within the city limits and has since made this his home. He is the father of two children: Theo, and Elma C., who became the wife of Axel R. Johnson, and lives at St. James. The Englin family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Theo Englin received his early education in the common schools of his native land, and after coming with his parents to this country attended the public schools of Adrian township, Watonwan county, also taking a business course in the Mankato commercial college. As a young man he worked on his father's farm during the summer months, and during the winter found employment as a clerk in a store at Butterfield, where he worked for five years. He then returned to the old homestead and engaged in farming until the spring of 1907. He is the owner of a farm of two hundred acres adjoining his father's farm, in Adrian township. In the fall of 1909, on November 15, he was elected cashier of the State Bank of Darfur, and he gave up his farming business and took this position in the bank, a position which he has since continued to hold. He is also at the present time the treasurer of the Farmers Elevator Company at Darfur. During the time he was living on his farm in Adrian township he was a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Elevator Company, of St. James, and served for several years as secretary of this company.

Politically, Mr. Englin affiliates with the Democratic party. For a period of fourteen years he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Adrian township, during his residence there. After removing to the village of Darfur he was elected as village recorder and served in this capacity for a term of four years. In 1915 he was elected president of the Darfur village council, a position he now holds.

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#### ANDREW P. VOUGHT.

Andrew P. Vought, chairman of the board of supervisors of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, and one of the best known and most substantial farmers of that township, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the Heron Lake neighborhood, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Fillmore county, June 12, 1866, son of James C. and Mary A. (Goudy) Vought, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio, who later became well-known residents of Cottonwood county.

James C. Vought was nine years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents back in pioneer days and he grew to manhood on a homestead farm in Fillmore county. After he left school he worked for some time as a farm hand in his home county and then for the better part of three years was engaged in rafting on the Mississippi river. He returned to Fillmore county, married there and settled on a farm, where he remained until 1870, in which year he moved to Jackson county and there entered a homestead tract of eighty acres, on which he made his home until he moved to Cottonwood county in 1883. Upon locating in the latter county he rented a farm and there lived until about five years before his death, which occurred in 1909. He had served the public in the capacity of constable and also had been road overseer for a number of years. James C. Vought and wife were the parents of thirteen children, of whom Andrew P. was the third in order of birth and of whom eleven are still living, two of these being residents of Cottonwood county, Andrew P. Vought having a sister, Mrs. Inez Reisdorph, living here.

Andrew P. Vought received his schooling in the schools of Jackson county, he having been but six years old when his parents moved to that county. He grew up on the paternal farm, assisting his father in the development of the same, and remained there until his marriage in 1886, after which he rented the farm on which he is now living and was a tenant on the same for twelve years, at the end of which time he bought it and has ever since continued to live there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Vought has a well-kept place of three hundred and twenty acres and has done well in his farming operations. He has made several thousands of dollars worth of improvements on the farm and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of the Heron Lake neighborhood. In addition to his general farming he also has gone in somewhat extensively for the raising of high-grade cattle and also maintains a dairy herd of twenty head or more. Mr. Vought has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and is now a member of the school board and chairman of the board of supervisors of his home township. He is a Prohibitionist and has for years been active in the work of promoting the anti-saloon movement in his neighborhood.

It was on May 6, 1885, that Andrew P. Vought was united in marriage to Kate Seimond, daughter of Henry Seimond, and to this union eight children have been born: Walter, Verne, Chester, Charles, Fannie, Pearl, Robert and Harold. Walter Vought married Lillian Lanham and has one child, a

son, Donald. Fannie Vought married John Neumandal and has one child, and Pearl Vought married Joseph Knutson. Mr. and Mrs. Vought are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Windom and take an earnest interest in the general good works of the community.

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### PAUL FLOGSTAD.

Paul Flogstad, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Nelson township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres on Rural Route No. 3, out of St. James; one of the pioneers of that part of the county and for many years actively identified with the work of developing the same, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was fifteen years old. He was born on a farm in Norway, October 3, 1841, and received his schooling in his native land. When he was twenty-eight years old, in 1869, his younger brother, Carl, having emigrated one year before, came to the United States and both settled at Oconto, Wisconsin, where they began working in a saw-mill. Nine years before their father, Halvor Nelson, died at his home in Norway, 1860. In 1870 their mother, Martha Olson Nelson, and the other members of the family, there having been eight children in all, came to this country and joined her sons at Oconto. Three years later the family came out here and located in Nelson township, Watonwan county. The widow homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in that township and there established her home with her younger children, remaining there the rest of her life, her death occurring in 1890. Of her eight children, five are still living and doing well their respective parts in life.

Paul Flogstad was about thirty years old when he came to Minnesota in 1872 and settled in Watonwan county, and upon locating in Nelson township homesteaded a tract of eighty acres of land, upon which he threw up a sod shanty and settled down there to "prove up" his claim and improve his tract. He broke the sod with a team of oxen and had a crop out the first year. From the very first he prospered in his farming operations and as he prospered in his labors added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. When Mr. Flogstad came to America he had less than twenty dollars; now he is a well-to-do retired farmer, possessing a very comfortable competence from the proceeds of the farm. In addition to his general farming, Mr.



Flogstad was also engaged quite extensively in stock raising for some time and did very well. Some time ago he gave up the active labors of the farm and is now renting his rich fields to responsible tenants.

In January, 1873, a little more than two years after coming to Minnesota, Paul Flogstad was united in marriage to Ingeborge Hanson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Sygert and Mary Hanson, also natives of that country, farming people, who came to the United States in 1870 and located in Wisconsin, where they remained a little more than a year, at the end of which time they came to Minnesota and settled in Brown county. Sygert Hanson and wife were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Flogstad being Hans, Isaac, Nellie and Mary, the latter of whom married Martin H. Flogstad, former chairman of the board of supervisors of Nelson township and a brother of the subject of this sketch. To Paul Flogstad and wife eight children have been born, namely: Halvor, deceased; Mary, who married Ole Halvorson and has three children, Inez, Amy and Oleta; Sophia, who married George Selber; Thorvall, who married Caren Weaken and has five children, Cora, Paul, Hazel, Carl and Alice; Olga, who married Peter Tintinger and has two children, Marie and Carl, and Axel, Mabel and Pearl. Mr. and Mrs. Flogstad are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which Mr. Flogstad for years was a trustee, and their children have been reared in that faith, the family taking an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the church, as well as in all local good works. Mr. Flogstad is an independent voter and takes a good citizen's interest in general civic affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

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### JACOB RUPP.

Jacob Rupp, one of the best-known young merchants in Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-stocked store of general merchandise at Delft, and otherwise actively interested in the general affairs of that part of the county, is a native of Austria, but has been a resident of Minnesota since early childhood and has thus grown into the life and works of the great Northwest. He was born in the province of Galicia, Austria, April 11, 1880, son of John and Christina (Mueller) Rupp, Galicians, who were married on February 13, 1870, and who came to the United States in 1882.

John Rupp was born on November 22, 1844, and grew up on a farm,



becoming a farmer, as well as a blacksmith and stone-mason. In 1882, twelve years after his marriage, he and his family came to this country, proceeding at once to Minnesota and locating at Mankato, where he took up work in a blacksmith shop and for six years was there engaged with heavy labor, also, during the building seasons, contracting in masonry work. Mr. Rupp was an active Christian member of the Mennonite denomination and a strong leader in church in his earlier days. In 1888 he moved his family to this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land one mile from the village of Butterfield, in Watonwan county, where he established his home on the prairie. From a magnificent log he had secured at Mankato he had sawed sufficient lumber for the erection of a small house on his prairie farm and there he began his profitable farming operations. For the first few years his crops were confined to flax, until the land became sufficiently mellow for wheat. His flax he cut with a reaper and the first wheat crop he cut with a cradle, and in the early years he used oxen on his farm. He prospered in his farming operations and gradually enlarged his land holdings until he became the owner of three hundred acres, and there he made his home for twenty-four years, at the end of which time he retired from the farm and moved to Butterfield, where his last days were spent, his death occurring about six years later, March 11, 1916. His widow is still living at Butterfield. To John Rupp and wife were born eight children, all of whom are living, as follow: Tillie, of Butterfield, widow of Arnold Kintzi; Mollie, who is at home with her mother; Edward, who married Mary Hubin and is farming about two and one-half miles southwest of Butterfield; Agnes, wife of Rudolph Linschied, a farmer living three miles northwest of Butterfield; Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Kate, wife of Gust Miller, a well-known merchant of Butterfield; John, a merchant, of Delft, and Sadie, who makes her home with her mother at Butterfield and is employed in the store of her brother-in-law, Gust Miller, in that village.

Jacob Rupp was a little more than two years old when his parents came to this country in 1882 and settled in Mankato. His early childhood was spent in that city and he had about two years of schooling there before the family moved to the Butterfield neighborhood, his schooling therefore being completed in the Butterfield schools. He grew up on the home farm and after completing the course in the public schools taught school for one term four miles northeast of Butterfield. He then went into the confectionery business at Butterfield, in partnership with Gust Miller, his brother-in-law, and was thus engaged for a year, at the end of which time he sold his interest in the store and moved to Delft, where he rented a store room and

opened a general merchandise store. Two years later he built his present store building, a substantial structure, twenty-six by thirty-eight, with a warehouse, eighteen by thirty-two, together with other additions; has gradually increased his stock in trade and is recognized as one of the leading merchants of that progressive village. He carries general merchandise, groceries, dry-goods and boots and shoes and has done very well. Mr. Rupp owns a farm of forty-nine acres north of Delft, which he rents out; five lots in Delft, besides a couple of residence lots there, and is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. He is secretary-treasurer of the Delft Rural Telephone Company and in other ways takes an active interest in the general affairs of the business community. He is "independent" in his political views and he and his wife are members of the Mennonite church, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest.

On May 20, 1906, Jacob Rupp was united in marriage to Emily Schweitzer, also a native of Austria, born on March 8, 1884, who came to this country with a cousin in the summer of 1903, coming directly to Butterfield, Minnesota. For six months after her arrival here she worked at Westbrook, then for two months at Mountain Lake, after which she spent a term in school at Darfur and then went to Minneapolis, where she was working until the time of her marriage to Mr. Rupp. To this union three daughters have been born, Hilda, Mabel and Edna.

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### TORVEL PEDERSON.

Desiring to please the traveling public, Torvel Pederson, who conducts a livery business at Stordon, is popular among his patrons, and he deserves to be.

Mr. Pederson was born in Amo township, Cottonwood county, November 8, 1874. He is a son of Paul and Andrena (Nelson) Pederson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married. They emigrated to America in 1871, locating at Staten, Wisconsin, where they engaged in farming. In 1874 they came on west to Amo township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where the father homesteaded a one-fourth section, which he developed into a good farm by years of close application. Here the death of the mother of Torvel occurred in 1881. The father removed from Cottonwood county about 1908 and resided on a farm in Anoka county, Minnesota, until he was killed by a train at Anoka in 1908. His family con-

sisted of four children, namely: Anna, who is the wife of Peter Olson, of Anoka; Hattie, who is the wife of Andrew Johnson, of Minneapolis; Torvel, subject of this sketch, and John, who died in early life.

Torvel Pederson received his education in the public schools of Cottonwood county. He grew up on his father's farm, and he remained on the old homestead in Amo township until 1913, actively engaged in general farming, then purchased the livery and draying business at Storden, which he has operated successfully to the present time. He is well equipped in the way of good horses and vehicles and handles all his business promptly and is honest and courteous to his patrons. He sold the farm when he came to town, but he owns some good land in Aiken county, Minnesota.

Mr. Pederson was married in 1895 to Belle Matson, a native of Iowa, in which state she was reared and educated. She is a daughter of Morgan Matson and wife. One child, Pearl, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pederson.

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#### REV. M. K. HARTMANN.

Contented to merely follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene, Rev. M. K. Hartmann, pastor of the United Norwegian Lutheran church of St. James, is doing a most commendable work and is one of the deservedly popular and highly esteemed men of Watonwan county, where he has done much for the general welfare of the people.

M. K. Hartmann was born in Benson, Minnesota, April 3, 1878, and is a son of Rev. H. A. and A. H. (Olson) Hartmann, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, attended school and were married. They emigrated to the United States in 1877 and located at Benson, Minnesota. The father was a minister in the Norwegian Lutheran church and was pastor of the church of this denomination at Benson for two years, then removed to Allamakee county, Iowa, and was pastor of a church at Lansing, that county, for a period of seventeen years, then returned to Norway, where he now resides. His wife died in Lansing in 1889. To these parents the following children were born: M. K., the subject of this sketch, is the eldest; Herbert is in the United States navy; Allison, Charlotte, and Alphild are all living in Norway.

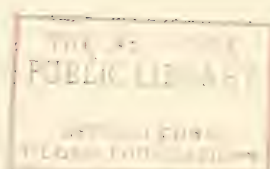
M. K. Hartmann received his education in the public schools of Lansing, Iowa, including the high school. He then took the course at St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota, from which he was graduated in





REV. M. K. HARTMANN.





1900, also studied at the University of Minnesota for some time. He was graduated from the United Church Seminary, St. Paul, in 1903. Thus exceptionally well prepared for his life work he went to Portland, Maine, where he was pastor of the church of his denomination in 1903 and 1904, then moved to Cresco, Iowa, and was pastor there from 1904 to 1910, when he came to St. James and has since been pastor of the United Lutheran church, which has a membership of over five hundred. He is also pastor of the Waverly Lutheran church in Martin county. He has built up the churches that he has served and has been popular with all his congregations. He is profoundly versed in the scriptures and is an earnest, forceful and eloquent pulpit orator. He also looks after the general welfare of his congregation, being ready at all times to help in time of distress or sorrow—teaching and practicing a practical religion.

Rev. M. K. Hartmann was married on July 12, 1905, to T. Bockman, of St. Paul, Minnesota, a daughter of Dr. M. O. Bockman, president of the United Lutheran Church Seminary of St. Paul. To this union two children have been born, namely: Hildur L., born on May 2, 1910; and Charlotte F., born on October 11, 1912. Mrs. Hartmann is a lady of education and culture and has been of great assistance to her husband in his pastoral work.

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### FRED BURLEY.

Fred Burley, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres three miles east of the city of Madelia, is a native of Germany, born on March 19, 1856. He was left an orphan at an early age and when a boy came to the United States with an uncle, the family settling in Woodford county, Illinois, where he remained several years, at the end of which time he went to Livingston county, same state, where he lived until his removal to Kansas. In Greeley county, in the latter state, he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and after proving his claim to the same sold out and went to Phelps county, Nebraska, where he was engaged in farming for six years, at the end of which time he returned to Livingston county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and there made his home for eight years. He then disposed of his interests in that county and came to Minnesota, settling in Watonwan county, where for three years he was engaged in farming on a rented farm, after which he bought what is known as the

Low farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and there made his home for seven years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he sold that place and bought the farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres in section 24, Madelia township, where he since has made his home and where he and his family are comfortably and pleasantly situated. Mr. Burley has made valuable improvements on his place since taking possession of the same, having erected all the buildings there, and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood.

In 1896, at Forest, Illinois, Fred Burley was united in marriage to Flora Feters, who was born in Marshall county, Indiana, May 2, 1868, daughter to Isaac and Jane (Vouce) Feters, and to this union six children have been born, Arthur, Jesse, George, Elmer, Harvey and Melvin. Jesse Burley married Maud Brandt and lives on a farm nearby the parental farm. The Burleys are members of the Christian church and ever have taken an active interest in the general good works of their neighborhood. Mrs. Burley is a competent and valuable helpmate to her husband and has contributed very largely to the success he has made of his farming operations.

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#### IVER O. IVERSON.

Iver O. Iverson, town clerk in and for Highwater township, Cottonwood county, and one of the well-known and substantial farmers of that township, owner of "Eureka Farm" of three hundred and twenty acres and actively identified with the civic and other interests of his home community, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was seventeen years old. He was born on a farm in the amt, or province, of Nordland on November 29, 1875, son of Iver and Pernelia (Hogensen) Iverson, the former of whom died in 1886, and who were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Jennie.

Iver O. Iverson received his schooling in the public schools of his native land and in 1892, when seventeen years of age, came to Minnesota and for two years made his home with his paternal uncle, Jacob O. Iverson, of Fillmore county, and then moved over into Cottonwood county to live with his mother's brother, Rasmus Hogenson, a prominent farmer of Highwater township, and upon the latter's death, in 1899, inherited the farm of three hundred and twenty acres on which he now lives and which he has greatly improved and brought to a high state of cultivation. He rebuilt the

house and has added largely to the other buildings on the place and now has one of the best-kept farms in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Iverson gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. Mr. Iverson also gives thoughtful attention to the various local business interests of his home community and is deeply interested in the various movements having to do with the advancement of the common cause thereabout. He was one of the organizers of the Westbrook Telephone Company and in other ways has done his part to build up the best interests of that part of the county. For about eleven years he has been township clerk and formerly served as justice of the peace and supervisor for the township.

In April, 1900, Iver O. Iverson was united in marriage to Martha Hofstad, and to this union five children have been born, Vivian L., Iver N., Raymond M., Agnes J. and Pearl H. The Iversons have a very pleasant home, and Mr. and Mrs. Iverson give proper attention to the various social and cultural activities of the community in which they live, being helpful in the promotion of all good movements thereabout.

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#### KNUT OLSON.

Knut Olson, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres in section 7 of Riverdale township, situated a mile and a half northwest of LaSalle, is a native of Sweden, born in the southern part of that country, November 28, 1850, son of Ole and Ellen (Peterson) Munson, natives of Sweden, who owned a small farm. Ole Munson was a soldier and he and his wife spent all their lives in their native land. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being Nels, Bengt A., Hannah and Elna.

When he was thirty-one years of age Knut Olson came to the United States and located at Rockford, Illinois. After a year there he came to Minnesota in 1882, and located in Watonwan county. In 1890 he bought the farm of one hundred and eighty acres on which he is now living and proceeded to develop the same. The next year he married and established his home there, the year following erecting his present comfortable and substantial residence. In 1907 he built his present large and well-equipped barn and



for years has given special attention to dairying, long having been regarded as one of the most progressive dairy farmers in that part of the county. Upon taking possession of his farm, Mr. Olson planted trees liberally, including a fine orchard, and these now add wonderfully to the general attractiveness of his well-kept place. In addition to his general farming and dairying, he also has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well.

It was in 1891 that Knut Olson was united in marriage to Ida Mary Johnson, and to this union three children have been born, Frithjof, who married Eleanor Youngquist, and has one child, a daughter, Vera, and Albin and Arthur. The Olsons have a very pleasant home and take a warm interest in the general social activities of their neighborhood, being identified with all measures promising to promote the welfare of the community.

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### GILBERT SWENSON.

Gilbert Swenson, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. He was born on March 8, 1881, son of Syver and Ingeborg (Olson) Swenson, natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota, becoming pioneers of Cottonwood county, where their last days were spent.

Syver Swenson was born on November 17, 1841, and was reared on a farm in his native land. He married Mrs. Ingeborg (Olson) Erickson, who was born in 1849, widow of Ole Erickson, who, by her first marriage, was the mother of one child, a daughter, Randi, and in 1869 came to Minnesota, settling in Olmsted county, whence, the next year, in 1870, he moved over into Cottonwood county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Highwater township, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1912. His wife had preceded him to the grave about three years, her death having occurred in 1909. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Ole, Mary, Ruth, Swen, Emma, Lena, Enga and Helen.

Gilbert Swenson grew up on the homestead farm on which he was born in Highwater township, a valuable assistant to his father in the work of developing the same. He received his elementary education in the schools

of his home township and supplemented the same by a course in the Minnesota State College of Agriculture, from which he was graduated in 1903. Upon completing his agricultural studies, Mr. Swenson rented the place on which he is now living and in 1910 bought the same. He married in 1912 and has since made his home there, he and his family being very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Swenson has improved his farm in strictly up-to-date fashion and has one of the best-kept places in that part of the county, the buildings and other improvements being of an approved and substantial character and the farm cultivated according to modern methods.

It was in 1912 that Gilbert Swenson was united in marriage to Gertrude Sabin, daughter of Andrew Sabin, and to this union two children have been born, Hazel and Stanford. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, Mr. Swenson being a member of the board of trustees of the church. They also are properly interested in other local good works and are helpful in promoting all agencies for the betterment of local conditions in their home community.

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#### OLE ANDERSON.

Ole Anderson, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Madelia township, Watonwan county, is a native son of that same township and has lived there all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm there, December 24, 1873, son of Bertel A. and Oline (Hermanson) Anderson, both natives of Norway, who became substantial and influential pioneers of Madelia township.

Bertel A. Anderson, who is still living on his old home place, which is now owned by his son, Osten M. Anderson, was born on January 20, 1839, son of Andrew and Rachel (Anderson) Anderson. His father died in his native country and later he and his mother came to Minnesota, settling in Madelia township, Watonwan county, where other members of the Anderson family from Norway had previously settled. Bertel A. Anderson bought a farm, married a daughter of one of the pioneers of that locality, she also having been a native of Norway, born on May 5, 1843, and established his home in Madelia township, where he is now living, and where he became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which, upon his retirement from the active labors of the farm, he sold to his son, Osten M., who is now operating the same. To Bertel A. Anderson and wife eight children

were born, Ella, Ole, Soren, Sarah, John, Herman, Osten and Abraham, all of whom are living save the last named. The mother of these children died on March 1, 1915. She was an earnest member of the Lutheran church, as is her surviving husband, and their children were reared in that faith.

Ole Anderson grew up on the old home farm, where he was born and, being the eldest son, early began to be a valuable aid to his father in the work of developing and improving the place. He received his education in the schools in the neighborhood of his home and remained on the home farm until 1897, in which year he and his brother, Soren, bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land in Madelia township, four and one-half miles northwest of the town of Madelia, and entered upon the task of developing and improving the same. In 1902 they built the present substantial farm house and it was not long until they had one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that section of the county. In 1910 Ole Anderson bought his brother's interest in the farm and has since been operating the same alone and is doing well, being recognized as one of the leading farmers of his neighborhood. In 1914 he built the present substantial barn and the other farm buildings are in keeping with the same, the entire farm plant exhibiting the progressive and up-to-date methods of the owner. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Anderson has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well with Short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

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#### DIETRICH D. PETERS.

Dietrich D. Peters, a well-known and substantial farmer of Dale township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on Rural Route No. 2, out of Windom, and prominently identified with numerous business interests in that part of the county, is a native of Russia, though he has been a resident of this part of Minnesota since he was two years of age and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the general development of this region during the past generation. He was born on November 5, 1874, son of Dietrich and Maria (Voth) Peters, farming people, who came to the United States from their native Russia with their family in 1876 and proceeded directly to this part of Minnesota, settling in Carson township, Cottonwood county, where they established their home, being among the pioneers of that section.



Upon settling in Cottonwood county, the senior Dietrich Peters bought forty acres of wild land in Carson township, made and burned a kiln of bricks from the clay on that land and erected a substantial brick house, which he covered with a thatch of hay, and in that house he lived many years. That early brick house is still standing and is still in use, but it has long ago been covered with a shingle roof. Dietrich Peters was a good farmer and prospered in his operations. He gradually enlarged his land holding and for years farmed a place of two hundred acres. In 1913 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Mountain Lake and is still living there. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Henry D., proprietor of "Springdale Stock Farm," adjoining that of his brother, Dietrich; George, a farmer living northeast of Delft; Helen, wife of George D. Ewart, a farmer living in Kansas; John, who died when six years old; Abraham, who lives on the old home farm in Carson township, and Mary, wife of P. J. Peters, a Nebraska farmer.

Dietrich D. Peters was about two years old when his parents came to this country in 1876 and he was reared on the home farm in Carson township, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and also acquiring an excellent knowledge of German under the careful tutelage of his father. From boyhood he proved a valuable aid to his father in the labor of developing the home place and remained at home until after his marriage, in 1897. Previously he had bought eighty acres of wild land in section 36, of Dale township, and in 1899 built a house and established his home there. About ten years later he remodeled and enlarged his house, built a good-sized and modern barn and has otherwise improved his place, bringing it up to its present well-kept condition. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Peters added to his farm and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has under excellent cultivation. He also has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well in that line. Mr. Peters is an "independent" Republican and has served for three or four terms as road overseer in his district. He gives proper attention to local enterprises and is a stockholder in the Carson Farmers Elevator Company, the Delft Creamery Company, of which concern he is one of the directors, and is also a stockholder in and a director of the Delft Rural Telephone Company, in the affairs of all of which concerns he takes an active interest.

It was on December 7, 1897, that Dietrich D. Peters was united in mar-



riage to Elizabeth Klaassen, and to this union nine children have been born, namely: Sarah, born on February 1, 1899; Dietrich E., September 14, 1900; Maria, March 30, 1902; Elizabeth, December 9, 1903; Cornelius, March 25, 1905; Katherine, November 15, 1906; Lena, December 22, 1908; Anna, November 15, 1911; Susanna, April 24, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Peters are members of the Bethel Mennonite church at Mountain Lake and take a proper interest in the general good works of the community, being earnest advocates of all movements designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### JOHN F. RADTKE.

John F. Radtke, one of the best-known and most progressive young farmers in Germantown township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, besides being the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Norman county; president of the Farmers Elevator Company at Sanborn and a stockholder in the Farmers Bank and the farmers co-operative store at Sanborn, is a native son of Cottonwood county and has lived there all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Germantown township, April 30, 1883, son of Fred and Ellen Radtke, early settlers in that township, who are now living comfortably retired at Sanborn.

Fred Radtke was one of the pioneers of Germantown township, having settled there even before the town of Sanborn was laid out. He homesteaded a farm there and early became one of the substantial farmers of that section of the county, influential in early affairs thereabout. He helped build the road from New Ulm to Watertown, South Dakota, and in other ways did his part in the development of this section of the state. To Fred Radtke and wife four children were born, the subject of this sketch having one brother, Edward Radtke, of Bowden, North Dakota, and twin sisters, Grace, of Sanborn, and Gertrude, of Minneapolis.

John F. Radtke grew up on the old homestead farm in Germantown township, receiving his schooling in the district school in that neighborhood, and from boyhood was an able assistant in the labors of developing the home farm. He became an up-to-date, progressive farmer and is now the owner of the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which he makes his home, besides being the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Norman county. His home place is well improved and he and his family are

very well situated. He has a complete set of concrete buildings on his place and the farm is beautified by more than one thousand evergreen trees. Mr. Radtke has brought his farm up to a high state of cultivation and it is looked upon as one of the best farms in Cottonwood county. Not only has Mr. Radtke been diligent about the affairs of his farm, but he has given considerable attention to outside business interests, is president of the Farmers Elevator Company at Sanborn and a stockholder in the Farmers Bank and the co-operative store at that place, in the affairs of all of which concerns he takes a warm interest. He also has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs and is helpful in all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of this section of the state.

In the fall of 1904 John F. Radtke was united in marriage to Amelia Gumto, of Charlestown township, in the neighboring county of Redwood, and to this union three children have been born, Wayne, Nioma and Lowell. Mr. and Mrs. Radtke take a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of the community in which they live and are accounted among the leaders in all progressive movements thereabout.

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### JOHN E. RUPP.

John E. Rupp, a well-known and well-to-do farmer and stock raiser of Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the Westbrook neighborhood, supervisor of Rose Hill township, school treasurer, president of the New Home Mennonite church and for years actively interested in the affairs of the western section of his home county, is a native of Austria, born on September 30, 1870, son of Jacob and Katie (Rupp) Rupp, both natives of that same country, who were the parents of ten children, six of whom died in their native land and the other four of whom came to this country, those beside the subject of this sketch being Amalia, now deceased, who was the wife of Rudolph Hubin; Emilia, who married Jacob F. Rupp, and Jacob J. The father of these children died in Austria and the Widow Rupp presently married Henry P. Rupp, to which union were born three children, Henry H., Edward J. and Gustav A. In the year 1882 the Rupp family came to the United States, proceeding to Minnesota and locating in Des Moines township, Murray county, where Henry P. Rupp homesteaded a tract of forty acres and estab-

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lished his home. He prospered in his farming operations and eventually became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. He and his wife retired from the active labors of the farm some years ago and are now living at Westbrook, where they are pleasantly situated in their declining years.

John E. Rupp was about twelve years of age when he came to this country and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Murray county, completing his schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood. Being the eldest son, he was a valuable aid to his stepfather in the labors of developing the homestead and grew up to be an excellent farmer. In 1894 he married and in that same year entered upon possession of the farm on which he now lives and which he has brought to a high state of development. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres is on the dividing line between Cottonwood and Murray counties, forty acres lying in the latter county, just across the road from his home in Cottonwood county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Rupp has given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred cattle and his Shorthorns show evidences of his skill as a stockman. He has made all the improvements on his place and has a good residence and barn, with other farm buildings in keeping with the same, his place being regarded as one of the best-kept farms in that neighborhood. Mr. Rupp has found time to give a good citizen's attention to local political affairs and is now serving the public in the capacity of township supervisor, an office he has held for some years. He also has been serving for some years as school treasurer and in other ways has contributed of his time and energies to the public service. In religious circles he also has been quite active and has ever been an influence for good thereabout. He was one of the organizers of the New Home Mennonite church and for about twenty years has been president of that congregation.

In 1894 John E. Rupp was united in marriage to Matilda Hubin, who also was born in Austria, daughter of John Hubin, Sr., who came to America with his family in the latter eighties, proceeding to Minnesota and locating at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, whence, about 1891, he moved to a farm in Rose Hill township, where he lived until his retirement from the farm and removal to Westbrook, where he and his wife are now living, comfortably situated in their declining years. Mrs. Hubin before her marriage was Katie Muller. To Mr. and Mrs. Rupp five children have been born, Bertha M., Emma T., Albert R., John H. and Ella A., all of whom are living. Bertha M. is married to Henry Rupp, a farmer of Murray county.



## HALVOR T. SKRABECK.

Halvor T. Skrabeck, "Lone Tree Farm," one of the best-known and most progressive farmers in Nelson township, Watonwan county, proprietor of two hundred acres and for years actively identified with the work of developing that part of the county, is a native of Norway, but has lived in this country since he was four years old. He was born in Tellemarken, May 26, 1864, son of T. and Anna Skrabeck, the former of whom was a riverman, and who came with their family to the United States in 1868, settling in Columbia county, Wisconsin, on June 23 of that year. T. Skrabeck began working as a farm hand in that settlement and presently bought a yoke of oxen, rented a piece of land and began farming on his own account. In June, 1871, he joined the stream of emigration then setting in toward this section of Minnesota and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Nelson township, Watonwan county. There he established his home, planted a grove, brought his place under cultivation and became one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. As he prospered he bought another "eighty" and on his quarter section did well, continuing his active farming until his retirement from the farm in 1893. His death occurred in 1897. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than twenty years, her death having occurred in 1875, about four years after the family settled in Minnesota. They were the parents of five children, of whom Halvor T. was the last born, the others being Thorsten, who died in 1873; Mary Martha, who died in 1899, and Margaret.

Halvor T. Skrabeck was but four years old when his parents came to this country and was about seven when the family came to Minnesota, consequently all the active years of his life have been spent in Watonwan county. The educational facilities in the days of his youth were exceedingly limited and he received very little schooling. He grew up on the home farm and being the only surviving son was a valuable assistant to his father in the work of developing the home place, even from the days of his boyhood. He continued working with his father and when the latter retired, took over the old homestead and has since been operating the same, being now the owner of two hundred acres of fine land, forty acres of which lies over the line in Brown county. In addition to his own land holdings, Mr. Skrabeck rents another quarter of a section and is carrying on his farming operations on a somewhat extensive scale. He adopts modern methods of farming, most of his plowing being done with a tractor, and everything about his



place is up-to-date. Mr. Skrabeck has spent about seventy-five hundred dollars improving the place since he came into possession and now has one of the best looking farms in that part of the county. His home occupies a fine, elevated position and commands a view of the country for miles around. In 1906 Mr. Skrabeck moved over to his well-improved farm of forty acres in Blue Earth county, but after living there four years moved back to the old homestead and has continued to make his home there since. He has given proper attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as overseer of roads in his district and as school director.

On May 18, 1893, Halvor T. Skrabeck was united in marriage to Anna Lee, who was born in Norway, December 4, 1870, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Lee, and to that union four children were born, Theodore, Albert, Hilmer and Ida, all of whom are at home. Mrs. Skrabeck died on April 15, 1915. Mr. Skrabeck is a Republican and is looked upon as one of the leaders of his party in the part of the county in which he lives. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and for some time served as a member of the board of trustees of the same.

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### GEORGE PEDERSON.

George Pederson, a well-known and substantial farmer of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township and actively identified with the work of developing that part of the county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the vicinity of Madelia, in the neighboring county of Watonwan, December 26, 1868, son of Hans and Martha (Monson) Rognelson, natives of Norway, who became pioneers of the Madelia neighborhood.

Hans Rognelson came to the United States in the days of his young manhood and for awhile was located in Kansas. He then came to Minnesota, took a homestead farm in the vicinity of Madelia and there spent the rest of his life, becoming a substantial and influential farmer and useful citizen. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Rachel, Martin and Syver, the latter of whom died in youth.

George Pederson was reared on the paternal farm in Watonwan county, receiving his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home, also

attending school for a time in the school in the vicinity of his present home in Cottonwood county. As a young man he began farming on the place which he now owns, a well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and has long been the owner of the same. His place is well improved and profitably cultivated and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Pederson has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well, making a specialty of Red-Polled cattle. He is a Republican and has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

In 1899 George Pederson was united in marriage to Gena Mosby and to this union six children have been born, Oscar H., Norman G., Harry M., Marian O., Ruth E., and one girl who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in local church work, Mr. Pederson having served for some time as a member of the board of trustees of the church. They also give proper attention to other local good works and are helpful in advancing the best interests of their home community in all proper ways.

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#### MARTIN H. FLOGSTAD.

Martin H. Flogstad, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in Nelson township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on rural route No. 3, out of St. James, former chairman of the board of supervisors of his home township, former assessor of the same township and in other ways for many years actively identified with the best interests of that part of the county, is a native of Norway, but has lived in this country since he was fifteen years of age. He was born on a farm in Norway, November 22, 1852, son of Halvor and Martha (Olson) Nelson, both natives of that country, the former of whom died in 1863, leaving his widow with eight children. In 1866 the two elder sons, Carl and Ole, had come to the United States and had located in Wisconsin and after the death of the father, the Widow Nelson and her other children also came over here and located at Oconto, Wisconsin. In 1870, desiring to create a permanent home for her family, this courageous widow joined the tide of emigration to this part of Minnesota and located in Watonwan county. She homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Nelson township and there established her home. All hands assisted in the work of developing that home-

stead and there the widow Nelson made her home the rest of her life, her death occurring in 1890, twenty years after she had come here, a plucky pioneer. Of her eight children, five are still living and all are filling well their respective stations in life.

Martin H. Flogstad was fifteen years old when he came to the United States with his mother and after the family had located at Oconto, Wisconsin, he worked there in a saw-mill for more than two years, or until the family came out here to develop a homestead farm in Watonwan county. He remained with his mother through the trying days of "proving up" the homestead claim. Upon coming here, the family funds were very low and he trapped muskrats during the first season in order to secure the money with which to pay for the homestead papers; that first season selling seven hundred pelts at fifteen cents the pelt. He was too young to homestead a place for himself and continued with his mother, remaining on the home place and developing the same until after his marriage in 1881, when he bought eighty acres in Nelson township, where he ever since has made his home. From the first he prospered in his farming operations, and as he prospered added an adjoining "eighty" and has long had his fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in a high state of cultivation. Upon taking possession of his farm he planted a fine grove, which adds greatly to the present attractiveness of the place. He has put about four thousand dollars worth of improvements on the place and has long been regarded as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. Mr. Flogstad has ever taken an active interest in local civic affairs and has served the public in his home township in the several capacities of road overseer, assessor and chairman of the board of supervisors, in all of his public service performing his duties with an eye single to the public good.

In July, 1881, Martin H. Flogstad was united in marriage to Mary Hanson, daughter of Sigurd Hanson and wife, and to this union eight children have been born, Hilda and Hulda, twins, died when eight months old; Stella, Hilmer, Millie, Oscar, Agnes and Philip. Stella Flogstad married Thomas Berge and the other children are still at home with their parents. The Flogstads are earnest members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, Mr. Flogstad having, at one time and another, filled all the several offices in the local congregation.

Mr. Flogstad attributes his success largely to his wife's ability in managing her home and to his children's interest in their parents' affairs.



## OLUF T. OLSON.

Oluf T. Olson, a well-known and substantial farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres, is a native of Watonwan county and was born on the farm in section 6, Madelia township, where he lives. He was born March 31, 1873, son of Torger Olson and Brit (Burley) Voge, natives of Norway, the former of whom came to this country in the days of his early manhood and the latter of whom was but a girl when she came here with her parents from the old country.

Torger Olson Voge left his native land when he was well grown and came alone to Minnesota, where he met and married Brit Burley and later homesteaded eighty acres in section 6, Madelia township, Watonwan county, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, Mrs. Voge dying in 1896, at the age of fifty-five years, and Mr. Voge dying on September 1, 1911, at the age of fifty-eight. Torger Olson Voge was an excellent farmer and not long after locating in Madelia township bought an additional eighty acres in section 7, forty acres in section 8 and eighty acres in section 5, thus becoming the owner of two hundred and eighty acres and was recognized as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, Turine, Oluf T., John, Louise and Lena, all of whom are living save John, who died in 1910.

Oluf T. Olson was reared on the homestead farm of his parents and received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. He remained on the home farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the development and improvement of the same, and became a very successful farmer, later coming into possession of the old home place, buying the interests of the other children after the death of their father. In 1913 he built the present substantial farm house on the place and he and his family were very comfortably situated there. Mr. Olson, in addition to his general farming, gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and did well, raising Durham cattle and Chester White and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has ever given close attention to local civic affairs and for some time has been a member of the board of supervisors of his home township. They are still living on the farm.

It was on September 24, 1892, that Oluf T. Olson was united in mar-



riage to Anna Nelson, who was born in Norway and who was but one year old when she came to this country with her parents. To this union five children have been born, Stella, Bernice, Edwin, Loyd and Ruth. The family are members of the Lutheran church and have ever given their warm support to all local measures designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### GEORGE SCHWANDT.

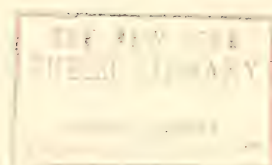
George Schwandt, member of the board of supervisors of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, one of the best-known and most progressive young farmers of that township, owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres, secretary of the Sanborn Co-operative Company, vice-president of the Sanborn Co-operative Elevator Company and otherwise actively identified with the rapidly developing interests of the northern part of the county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Nicollet township, Nicollet county, May 3, 1881, son of Julius and Albertina (Otto) Schwandt, natives of Germany, who later became residents of Cottonwood county and the former of whom is still living on his farm in Germantown township.

It was in 1860 that Julius Schwandt came to the United States. He proceeded immediately to Minnesota and settled in Nicollet county. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in behalf of the Union cause in the Fourteenth Minnesota Artillery. He was one of the defenders of New Ulm during the Indian uprising in 1862 and took part in the pursuit of the Indians after the massacre. Upon the conclusion of his military service he resumed his farming operations in Nicollet county, where he continued to live until 1891, in which year he disposed of his interests there and moved over into Cottonwood county, settling on a farm in Germantown township, where he has ever since made his home. His wife died in August, 1912. She was a member of the German Lutheran church, as is her husband, and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, who grew to maturity, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Otto, Julius, Henry, William, Albertina, Martha and Marie, and three who died, Frank, Albert and Bertha.

George Schwandt was seven years old when his parents moved to Cottonwood county and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm in German-



GEORGE SCHWANDT.



town township, an able assistant in the labors of developing the same. He completed his schooling in the schools at Springfield and early began farming on his own account, in 1908, taking charge of the place on which he now lives. In 1910 he bought that place and since then has greatly improved the same, at the same time bringing it up to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Schwandt has two hundred and eighty acres and in addition to his general farming has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock. He but recently has gone into the dairy business on a somewhat extensive scale and for the past ten years has operated a threshing-rig during the seasons. Not only has he been diligent in his own business, but he has found time to devote considerable attention to other interests and is vice-president of the Co-operative Elevator Company at Sanborn and secretary of the company controlling the co-operative store at that place. Mr. Schwandt is a Republican and for years has given thoughtful attention to local governmental affairs, at present being a member of the board of supervisors of his home township.

On June 20, 1904, George Schwandt was united in marriage to Lydia Mattke and to this union four children have been born, Herbert and Margaret and one that died when eight months old named Eleanor and another named Ruth, died when three weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. Schwandt are members of the German Lutheran church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all local good works, ever being willing promoters of such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare in their home community.

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### GOTTLIEB COMNICK.

Gottlieb Comnick, one of the best-known citizens of the western part of Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and seven acres in Rose Hill township, for years a member of the official board of that township, former township assessor and in other ways actively interested in the civic affairs of his community, is a native of Russia, but has been a resident of Cottonwood county since 1876 and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in southern Russia on November 19, 1859, son of Michael and Anna (Zeller) Comnick, the former also a native of Russia and the latter of Germany, who were the parents of four children,



of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being William, David and Christian.

Michael Connick died on his home farm in Russia in 1861, Gottlieb then being hardly three years of age, and the widowed mother kept her family together. In 1876 she and her sons came to the United States and proceeded directly to Minnesota, coming on out to this part of the state. Mrs. Connick homesteaded a tract of one hundred and twenty-seven acres in Rose Hill township, Cottonwood county, and there she and her sons established their home, becoming useful and influential pioneers of that part of the county, ever active in promoting the development of the community. Mrs. Connick lived many years to enjoy the rewards of the early years of pioneer privation and hardship and had the satisfaction of seeing her homestead place developed into a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm. Her death occurred in 1907 and she was widely mourned, for she had been helpful in many ways in that neighborhood, not only in the pioneer days, but long after a proper social order had been established thereabout.

Gottlieb Connick was about seventeen years old when he came to Minnesota in 1876 and he has lived here ever since, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and public-spirited citizens in the western part of Cottonwood county. Upon coming here he entered vigorously into the work of aiding in the development of his mother's homestead. After his marriage in 1884 he came into possession of the home farm and has since added to the same, now being the owner of two hundred and seven acres of excellent land, which he has improved in admirable fashion and which is in a fine state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Connick has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well in his operations. He is a Republican and has given his careful thought to local governmental affairs, ever doing his part to advance the cause of good government hereabout. He also has contributed of his time and his energies to the public service and has served as township assessor and for twelve years a member of the township board.

In 1884, Gottlieb Connick was united in marriage to Elizabeth Deitchmann, daughter of Edward Deitchmann, and to this union five children have been born, Fred W., Bertha, Josephine, Gottlieb D. and William E., all of whom are doing well their respective parts in the community in which they reside. Mr. and Mrs. Connick are members of the German Lutheran church and for years have taken an active interest in the affairs of the congregation to which they are attached, Mr. Connick having served for some time as secretary of the congregation.

## ARTHUR HARPER.

Arthur Harper, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, now living at Windom, where he has made his home since retiring from the active labors of the farm in 1909. is a native of Canada, born in Ontario, November 9, 1864, son of John and Priscilla (Winters) Harper, substantial farming people, natives of Canada, who were the parents of eight children, six of whom are now living, two of whom make their homes in Cottonwood county, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. W. K. Moores, living here. John Harper continued farming in his native country until 1888, when he moved to Minnesota, and continued farming until his death, June 15, 1900. His widow still lives with a daughter, Mrs. W. K. Moores, Cottonwood county.

Arthur Harper received his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home in Ontario and when sixteen years of age came to Minnesota, locating in Goodhue county, where he worked as a farm hand for three years, at the end of which time, in 1883, he came to this part of the state and rented a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Springfield township, Cottonwood county. The next year he married and established his home on that farm, continuing there as a tenant farmer for two or three years, at the end of which time he bought the place, paying for the same thirteen dollars and fifty cents an acre, and there he made his home until his retirement from the farm in 1909. Mr. Harper is an excellent farmer and from the very beginning of his operations on his home place he prospered, gradually adding to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres. He spent about ten thousand dollars improving the place and became recognized as one of the most progressive and substantial farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Harper gave considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and was accustomed to feeding about one hundred head of cattle on his place. In 1909 he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Windom, where they have a very pleasant home and where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Harper is "independent" in his political views, has ever taken a close interest in local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class, though for some years he served as a member of the township board and for fifteen years was a member of the school board, representative of his district.

In 1884 Arthur Harper was united in marriage to Alice Winslow,

daughter of Ezra and Frances (Reed) Winslow, and to this union have been born the following children: Manley, who married Tora Anderson and has two children, Avis and Mildred; John, who married Jennie Eastgate and has two children, Avon and Elsie; George, who married Carrie Schroeder; Jesse, at home; Pearl, at home; Lydia, who married Frank McGrath, and Ida and Willis, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Harper are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Windom, Mr. Harper being a member of the official board of the same, and have ever taken an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works. Mr. Harper is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and Mrs. Harper are members of the local lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah, in the affairs of which they take a hearty interest.

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### H. P. LEONARD.

H. P. Leonard, one of the successful farmers of Antrim township, was born at Rutland, Vermont, on February 2, 1862, being the son of E. P. and Almira (Whitmore) Leonard. Amos Whitmore, the maternal grandfather of H. P. Leonard, was born in the state of Vermont and lived all of his life in his native state. Jonathan Leonard, the paternal grandfather was a native of Vermont. He later settled in Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he died.

E. P. Leonard, the father of H. P., was a native of the state of New York, where he was born on January 16, 1829. In 1866 he engaged in farming in Wabasha county, Minnesota, where he remained for four years, after which he lived in Martin county, Minnesota, for one year. In 1871 he homesteaded eighty acres of land in Watonwan county, in section 20 of Antrim township. The family lived on this eighty acres for a number of years and endured the hardships of frontier life, including the seven years of grasshopper times, during which the father and eldest son went away and worked to earn a meager existence for the family. To the eighty acre tract he kept adding, until he had two hundred acres. During the last five years of his life he lived in Fairmont. Mrs. Leonard is still living there. To E. P. and Almira Leonard were born the following children: Alma, Byron, Brenice, Hiram P., Minnie, Luna, Edward, Mary and Winefred. The children are all living.



H. P. Leonard was married on October 13, 1886, to Anna Dewar, the daughter of John Dewar and wife, of Lewisville, Minnesota. To this union two children were born: John, who married Bertha Ableman, and Beulah Jane is at home. Mr. Leonard is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 20 and one hundred and sixty acres in section 30, Antrim township. He does general farming and feeds many cattle and hogs. The farm is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. The house and barn were built in 1898.

Mr. Leonard and family are members of the Christian church and take much interest in church and Sunday school work, Mr. Leonard being one of the elders in the church. Fraternally, Mr. Leonard is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He takes much interest in township and county affairs. He is serving his second term on the township board, and has served on the school board for twenty-five years.

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### JOHN RYDEEN.

John Rydeen, an enterprising building contractor and carpenter at Jeffers, who also is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of that town, is a native of Sweden, born on June 11, 1868, son of John and Fredericka (Johnson) Rydeen, both natives of that country, the former of whom died in 1915 and the latter of whom is still living in her native land, who were the parents of seven children, those besides John being Charles, Andrew, Annie, Samuel, Mattie and Peter, all of whom are living save Samuel and Mattie.

John Rydeen was reared on a farm and received his education in the public schools. He early learned the carpenter trade and in 1888, when twenty years of age, came to the United States and located at St. Peter, this state, where he remained for a couple of years, at the end of which time he came to this part of the state and for seven years worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Windom. In 1897 he bought a farm of eighty acres in Amo township and began farming for himself. The next year he bought one-half of section 35 in Storden township and after improving and farming that until 1910, sold out and bought his present well-improved place of two hundred and forty acres in section 25 of that same township. Mr. Rydeen has erected fine buildings on his farm, which he rents out, devoting his time



chiefly to his carpenter work, in which he has been very successful, being one of the best-known builders in that part of the county. He is an energetic, public-spirited citizen and has done much for the community in which he lives.

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### CHARLES W. BOLIN.

Charles W. Bolin, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Watonwan county, former member of the board of county commissioners and proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres within three-quarters of a mile of the town of LaSalle, in Riverdale township, where he makes his home, besides being the owner of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 17 of that same township, is a native son of Watonwan county and has lived there all his life. He was born on a homestead farm in section 20 of Riverdale township, May 28, 1872, son of John and Mary (Johnson) Bolin, natives of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1869, landing at the port of New York, and proceeded directly to Minnesota, whither kinsfolk from the old country had preceded them some little time before.

Upon arriving in Minnesota, John Bolin homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Riverdale township, Watonwan county, and there established his home. He later bought another "eighty" and during his active days of farming operated one hundred and sixty acres quite successfully. When the Minnesota and St. Louis railroad was put through this section, it cut right through the Bolin homestead, taking seven acres of the same. John Bolin and his wife reared their family on the homestead farm and lived there until about 1892, when they retired from the farm and moved to St. James, where they made their home until 1910, when they moved to LaSalle, where they are now living. Mr. Bolin still owns eighty acres of his old home farm. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, of whom Charles W. was the second in order of birth, the others being as follows: John, who now lives on the old homestead farm in Riverdale township; Ida, who married Peter Jackson and who, as well as her husband, is now dead, and Edward, former register of deeds for Watonwan county, who is now engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at St. James.

Charles W. Bolin was reared on the parental homestead and received his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home. He was a

valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and became an excellent farmer. On July 7, 1895, he married Marie Lindquist, who was born in 1869, and established his home on the farm where he is now living, in section 17 of Riverdale township, where he has one hundred and twenty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. Bolin prospered in his farming operations and presently enlarged his holdings by the purchase of one-half of section 20 in his home township. He took an active interest in local public affairs and in the latter nineties was elected a member of the board of county commissioners from his district. Then on January 17, 1900, his wife died. This blow so disheartened Mr. Bolin that for some time he gave up farming and the other activities in which he was engaged and moved to St. James, where he lived retired until his later return to the farm, where he is now living, comfortably situated. Mr. Bolin has four children, Anna, who married Theo Keffe, and Carl, Rosella and Frances.

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### WILLIAM L. ROSSING.

William L. Rossing, a well-to-do farmer of Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of "Brook Mount Farm," a fine place of three hundred and twenty acres in the Westbrook neighborhood, and one of the most progressive agriculturists in that part of the county, was born on a farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, November 17, 1863, son of Andrew and Inger (Lund) Rossing, natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1850 and located in Wisconsin, settling on a farm in Lafayette county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, of whom William L. was the first-born, the others being Anton, a well-known farmer of the Walnut Grove neighborhood in Cottonwood county, Catherine and Emilia.

Andrew Rossing was a substantial and well-to-do pioneer farmer and his eldest son, William L. Rossing, was given every advantage in the way of schooling in his youth. Upon completing the course in the district school in his home neighborhood he attended Augsburg Seminary at Minneapolis for some time and then entered Milton College in his home state, where he completed his studies and then, in 1881, began clerking in a store at Bode, Iowa. A year later he bought that store and continued in the mercantile business there for ten years, at the end of which time he engaged in the

breeding and training of race horses at that place and was thus engaged for about twelve years, during which time he became one of the best-known horsemen in Iowa.

In 1907 Mr. Rossing disposed of his interests in Iowa and came to Minnesota, his brother, Anton, having come out here about seven years before, and located in Cottonwood county, where he ever since has made his home and where he long has been recognized as one of the most substantial farmers. Mr. Rossing bought a half section of land in Westbrook township and proceeded to develop the same, soon having one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that locality. He has given his place the name of "Brook Mount Farm" and there he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Rossing gives attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and gives proper attention to local civic affairs, having served for some time as clerk of the school board.

Mr. Rossing has been twice married. By his marriage to Gena Williams he had three children, Diodata, Avalon and Wilmeth. The mother of these children died in 1893 and Mr. Rossing married, secondly, Dr. Anna Marie Kirkberg, to which union three children have been born, Eunice Eleanora, Olaf Ingval and Erling William. Mr. and Mrs. Rossing are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works.

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### ABRAHAM JACOBSON.

Abraham Jacobson, a well-known retired pioneer farmer of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, now living in the village of Grogan, is a died in their native land and when he was twenty-two years old, in 1866, native of the kingdom of Norway, born on September 8, 1844. His parents he came to the United States and for a year made his home with his uncle, Seur Olson, a farmer, of Lee county, Iowa. The next year, 1867, he moved to Minnesota and was married near Madelia, joining the steady tide of emigration that then was rapidly filling this section of the state.

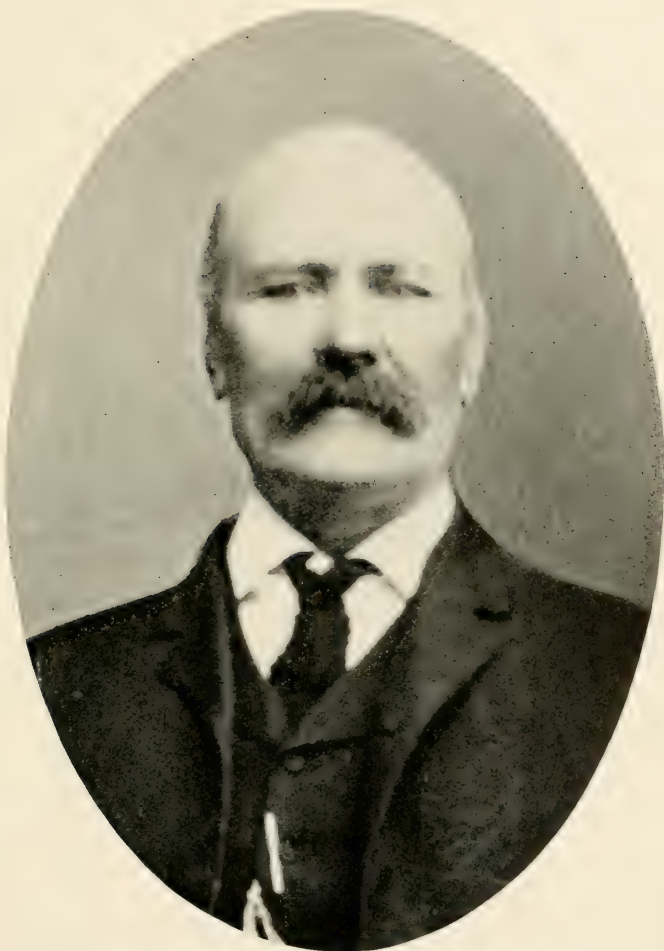
Upon coming out here on September 3, 1867, Abraham Jacobson homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section 10, Rosendale township, Watonwan county, bought an adjoining "eighty" of government land and an additional "eighty" of railroad land and there established his home. He erected sub-



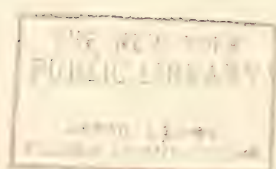




FARM HOME OF ABRAHAM JACOBSON.



ABRAHAM JACOBSON.



stantial buildings on the place, planted a fine grove of trees and quickly had the farm in an excellent state of cultivation, early becoming recognized as one of the leading farmers of that section of the county. As the years passed Mr. Jacobson continued to improve his place until he had one of the best farms in the county. In addition to his holdings there he some years ago bought a farm of one hundred and seventy-nine acres adjoining the village of Grogan and is also the owner of a pleasant home and four lots in the village of Grogan. In 1914 Mr. Jacobson sold his old home place on contract, though he still holds the deed, and on November 29, 1915, he and his family moved to their home in Grogan, where they now live and where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Jacobson is a Republican and for many years has given his close attention to the civic affairs of his home township, for twenty-one years having been a member of the township board and in other ways active in promoting the best interests of his community.

Abraham Jacobson has been twice married. It was on August 25, 1867, in Madelia, Minnesota, that he was united in marriage to Anna Malena Larson, born in Norway, whose parents died in their native land. To this union there was no issue. Mrs. Anna M. Jacobson died in 1893 at her home in Rosendale township and is buried in the cemetery nearby the Norwegian Lutheran church in that neighborhood. On August 14, 1911, Mr. Jacobson married, secondly, Anna Sorenson, who was born in the neighboring county of Blue Earth, daughter of Lars and Thora (Shaw) Sorenson, the former a native of Denmark, born in 1853, and the latter, of Norway, born in 1860, who are now living at St. James, which has been their home for the past twenty years. Lars Sorenson was but eleven years of age when he came to the United States with his parents, the family becoming early settlers in Blue Earth county, this state, where he grew to manhood and where he married. After farming in that county for some time he moved to Freeborn county and after residing in that county for some years moved to Watonwan county and was there engaged in farming until his retirement from the farm and removal to St. James. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom Mrs. Jacobson was the first-born, the others being Martin, Clara, Edward, Oscar, Marie, Arthur, Lavina and Edith, of whom Edward, Oscar and Marie, besides Mrs. Jacobson, now survive. To Abraham and Anna (Sorenson) Jacobson two children have been born, Martha Lavina, born on April 21, 1912, and Arnold James,



September 23, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson take an earnest interest in the general good works of the community in which they live and are looked upon as among the leaders thereabout in measures designed to advance the common welfare. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in church work. Mrs. Anna (Sorenson) Jacobson was first married to a Mr. Newham, to which union were born two children, Leslie Willard and Milford Clayton, now living with the mother and attending school.

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### JOHN S. RANDALL.

John S. Randall, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, and proprietor of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Storden, is a native of Vermont, born at Newberry, in Orange county, that state, February 4, 1852, son of Benjamin Franklin and Julia Ann (Cross) Randall, both natives of that same county, the former born in 1825 and the latter in 1826. Benjamin F. Randall was the son of John Randall, a native of Vermont, who was a large farmer and stockbuyer. Julia Ann Cross was the daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Sandburn) Cross, also natives of Vermont, the former of whom was a well-to-do farmer and tanner. Benjamin F. Randall, who was a blacksmith and wagon-maker, with a well-established shop at Groton, Vermont, died before reaching middle age. He was a deacon in the Methodist church and active in good works. He and his wife were the parents of three children, of whom John S. was the second in order of birth, the others being Sylvester, who died young, and Josephine, who married George Downs. The Widow Randall married, secondly, Chauncey E. O'Dell and to that union there was born one child, a son, Edwin. Mr. Randall had a half-brother named William Bell.

John S. Randall was but a boy when his father died. Not long afterward the family came West and located at Ripon, Wisconsin, where he had his first schooling. His mother had taught him to read and before he started to school he had read the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation. During his boyhood John S. Randall was a diligent worker, doing anything that his hand found to do, in an effort to assist in the family support. Not long after locating at Ripon the family moved to Waterloo, Iowa, and there he labored for some time with the fishing crews in the Cedar river. When he was nine years old, in 1861, the family came to Minnesota and settled at

St. Peter, where he grew to manhood. He presently became the owner of a stone quarry at Ottawa, LeSueur county, and did well in that line, selling large quantities of building stone throughout LeSueur and Nicollet counties. In 1878 he came over into this part of the state and settled in Cottonwood county, where he has lived ever since. Upon his arrival here he homesteaded a quarter of a section in Storden township and upon his marriage a year or two later established his home there. Mr. Randall is a good farmer and has prospered in his undertakings. He has gradually added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. He and his family have a pleasant home and are quite comfortably situated.

Mr. Randall has been twice married. On January 6, 1880, he was united in marriage to Adaline V. Herrick, daughter of Elijah and Frances (Barger) Herrick, and to that union six children were born, Belle, Iva May, Frank A., Florence (deceased), Grace and Mabel (deceased). The mother of these children died on December 13, 1893, and Mr. Randall married Fannie E. (Farmer) Arnold, to which union five children have been born, Harry, Margaret, Viola, Ethel and Ada. Viola died in infancy. Mrs. Randall had a son, Franklin Leslie Arnold, by a former marriage; he is now known as Leslie Randall. Mr. Randall is an "independent" in his political views and is a Spiritualist in his religious persuasion.

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### HELGE O. KLEVEN.

Helge O. Kleven, a well-to-do farmer of Ann township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of three hundred and twenty acres on rural route No. 2, out of Walnut Grove, is a native of Norway, born on January 28, 1852, son of Ole O. and Anna (Helges) Dather Kleven, both natives of that same country, who came to the United States in 1865, proceeding directly to Minnesota, settling in Fillmore county, where Mrs. Kleven died about two years later, and where Ole O. Kleven continued to make his home the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1892. He was thrice married and was the father of eight children.

Helge O. Kleven came to America with his parents, but it was not until 1878 that he located in Cottonwood county, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Ann township. Two years later he married and established his home on that homestead tract and has ever since resided

there, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that part of the county. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Kleven gradually added to his land holdings until he now is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He has improved the place in good shape, has a comfortable residence, well-kept farm buildings and is very pleasantly situated. Mr. Kleven has given close attention to local civic affairs and for years has been a member of the school board of his home township. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and he is one of the trustees of his church, to the affairs of which he has ever given his earnest attention.

In 1880 Helge O. Kleven was united in marriage to Christine Thorson, also a native of Norway, whose father lived to be eighty-eight years of age, and to this union have been born four sons, Ole, Thor, Albert and Martin, all of whom are well-known and progressive young farmers of Ann township, who are doing well their respective parts in the common life of that community.

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### JENS C. HANSEN.

Jens C. Hansen, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres on the range line between Storden and Westbrook townships, a portion lying in section 19 of Storden township and the remainder in section 13 of Westbrook township, with the home situated in the former section, and a former merchant of that vicinity, is a native of Denmark, born on July 2, 1866, son of Hans and Karen (Larsen) Jensen, natives of that country, the former of whom spent his last days in Minnesota.

Hans Jensen was a farmer in his native land. In 1886 he came to the United States and located in Freeborn county, this state, his son, Jens C., having preceded him there a couple of years, and after a residence of several years there moved to Iowa, where he spent six years, at the end of which time he returned to Freeborn county and there spent the rest of his life. Hans Jensen was twice married. His first wife, the mother of Jens C. died in her native land, leaving four children, L. P., Jens C., Chris and Carrie. Mr. Jensen then married Anna Nelson and to that union six children were born, Peter, Ole, John, Walter, Herman and Fritz. Hans Jensen was a member of the Baptist church and his children were reared in that faith.



Jens C. Hansen was reared on a farm in his native land, receiving his schooling in the public schools, and when he was eighteen years of age, in 1884, came to the United States and located in Freeborn county, this state, where for ten years he was engaged working on farms in that part of the state. In 1895 he came over into this part of the state, settling in Cottonwood county, where, in partnership with O. C. Anderson, he started a country store in Storden township, and was thus engaged until the year 1900, when he sold his interest in the store and bought the farm of two hundred acres, where he has lived since then. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Hansen has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, Holstein cattle, by preference, and has done very well. His farm is well improved and profitably cultivated and he has long been recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that section.

In 1897 Jens C. Hansen was united in marriage to Emma Pederson and to this union seven children have been born, Merrill, Ruth, Hattie, Edna, Elvin, Victor and Mildred. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Baptist church and take a proper interest in church affairs, Mr. Hansen being the clerk of the congregation. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in political affairs, but has never been an office holder. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes an active interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### ARTHUR O. STARK.

Arthur O. Stark, a well-to-do farmer of Amo township, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres in the neighborhood of Storden, former chairman of the township board, a director of the Farmers Bank of Storden, one of the organizers of the companies controlling the farmers' elevator and the co-operative store at Storden and for years actively interested in the promotion of the best interests of that section of the county, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a farm in the vicinity of Amherst, in Fillmore county, May 11, 1865, son of S. S. and Miranda (Able) Stark, natives of the state of New York, who became pioneers of Minnesota in the early sixties and were living in Fillmore county during the time of the Sioux outbreak. S. S. Stark was one of eight children born to his parents, the others being Richard, Charles, David, Andrew, Prucia, Josephine and Mary. Andrew Stark also came West and served through the Civil War as a member of a Wisconsin regiment. S. S. Stark became a well-to-do



farmer in Fillmore county and he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives there. They were the parents of six children, as follow: Flora, William A., Arthur O., Ida S., Josephine and Edgar. Edgar and Flora are deceased.

Arthur O. Stark was reared on the paternal farm in Fillmore county and received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood. Reared to farming, he early began farming on his own account and for about ten years after his marriage lived on a farm in his native county, after which, in 1900, he came to this part of the state and bought the farm of four hundred and eighty acres on which he since has made his home in Amo township and where he and his family are comfortably situated. In addition to his extensive general farming, Mr. Stark has given considerable attention to stock raising and makes a specialty of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. Mr. Stark has for years given his intelligent attention to the promotion of the best interests of his home community and is recognized as one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers in the Storden neighborhood. For eleven years he has been a member of the township board, a part of which time he served as chairman of the board, and for fifteen years has been a member of the school board. He helped in the organization of the Farmers Elevator Company and of the Farmers Co-operative Company at Storden, is a stockholder in both these organizations and for some time served as a member of the board of directors of the same. He also is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Bank at Storden and in other ways is connected with the business and general interests of his home community.

In 1890 Arthur O. Stark was united in marriage in Fillmore county, this state, to Della Griffith, who was born in that county, daughter of Edward and Clarissa (Burbank) Griffith, the former of whom was born in England and the latter in this country, of German descent, who were early settlers in Fillmore county, where their last days were spent, both being buried in the same cemetery in Fillmore county in which rest the remains of Mr. Stark's parents, the two families having been close neighbors. To Mr. and Mrs. Stark have been born five children, Elsie, Leroy, Vivian, Donald and Alice. Donald is deceased. The Starks are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, being accounted among the leaders in the various social activities of their home community. Mr. Stark is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

## HENNING L. SWENSON.

Henning L. Swenson, one of the most substantial farmers of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, is a native son of that township, born on the old homestead farm where he has lived all his life. He was born on May 5, 1879, son of Lars and Birgit (Ophiem) Swenson, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came to Minnesota in 1870 and later became pioneer settlers in Cottonwood county, where the latter is still living.

Lars Swenson was born on April 2, 1845, and was reared on a farm in his native land. In 1870 he came to the United States, proceeding directly to Minnesota and located in Olmsted county. In 1871, he came to Cottonwood county and homesteaded a quarter of a section in Highwater township, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on November 10, 1902. Lars Swenson for years was one of the leading citizens of Cottonwood county, taking a prominent part not only in civic affairs, but in the general life of the community in pioneer days, and proved a strong and helpful factor in the development of the new country hereabout. He served his community in numerous minor official capacities and in 1890 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners and continued serving in that important public capacity until his death. He was successful in his farming operations and became one of the largest landowners in the northern part of the county, this land now being owned and operated by his children, all of whom are doing well their respective parts in the community. His widow is still living on the old homestead place, that portion of the farm now being owned and operated by Henning L. Swenson, the subject of this sketch. Lars Swenson was an earnest member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom Henning L. was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Swen L., Halvor and Olena, who died in infancy; Halvor, Orin, Theodore, Olene, Hannah and Laura.

Henning L. Swenson was reared on the old homestead farm on which he was born, receiving his elementary education in the schools of Highwater township, and later took a course in the State Agricultural School, after which he began farming on his own account on the home farm. After his father's death he became the owner of two hundred acres of the estate, including the old homestead tract, and is now living there with his aged mother. Mr. Swenson is carrying on his farming operations according to

modern methods and has his place in fine shape. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to raising live stock, with particular reference to Holstein cattle, and has done very well. He gives thoughtful attention to the civic affairs of his home county and does a good citizen's part in the promotion of all agencies having to do with the betterment of local conditions.

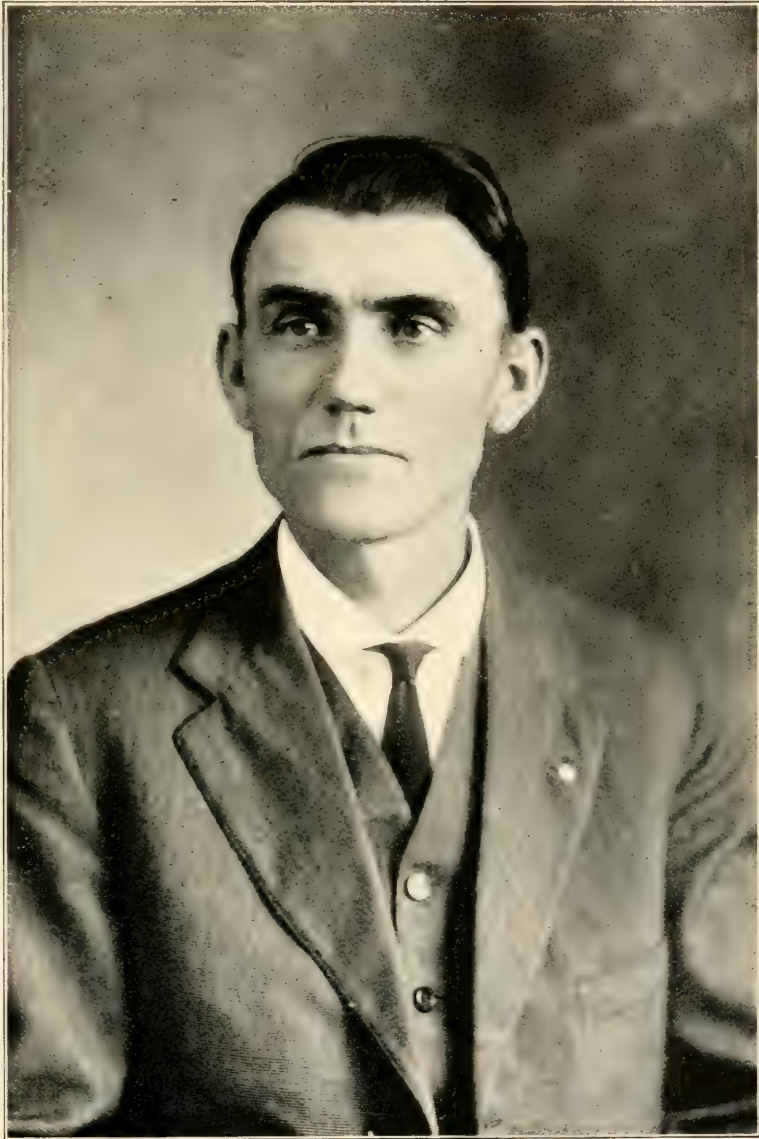
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### LARS P. PEDERSON.

Lars P. Pederson, marshal of the village of Westbrook, chief of the fire department, president of the Westbrook Electric Light Commission, owner of the leading garage in the village, for ten years street commissioner and for many years one of the best-known threshermen in Cottonwood county, is a native son of that county and has lived there all his life with the exception of a few years spent in the village of Revere in the neighboring county of Redwood. He was born on a pioneer farm on the present site of the village of Westbrook, September 27, 1871, son of Ole A. and Allete (Larson) Pederson, natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota in 1866 and located near Lamberton. A year later they moved over into Cottonwood county and in Westbrook township Ole A. Pederson entered a homestead claim to a tract of eighty acres and pre-empted an adjoining "eighty" in the western part of the township and there established his home. He later bought an adjoining quarter section and thus was the owner of a full half section of land, becoming one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. He was active in civic affairs during the early days of the settlement of the county and at one time and another held practically all township offices. He was the first postmaster of Westbrook and for fifteen years kept the postoffice in his home, around which the village of Westbrook gradually grew up and became a flourishing community. Some time after his wife died, Ole A. Pederson moved to the village of Windom, about 1900, and there spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, Louisa M., Peder A., Lars P., Josephine T., Ole A., Ellen E. and Adolph A., all of whom are living save the last-named, who died when one year old.

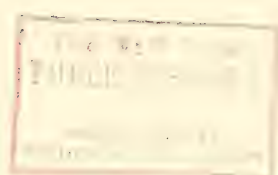
Lars P. Pederson grew to manhood on his father's homestead farm, receiving his schooling in the district school in that immediate vicinity, and when grown started out for himself, engaging in threshing and well-digging and was thus quite successfully engaged until 1902, a part of the





LARS P. PEDERSON.





time making his home in the village of Revere. In 1902 he returned to Westbrook and has since then been marshal of the village. For ten years also he was commissioner of streets and is now, in addition to his other official duties, chief of the fire department and president of the electric light commission. Mr. Pederson continued operating his threshing-rig until 1911, in which year he established a garage at Westbrook and has since been engaged in the automobile business. In the summer of 1914 he built his present garage, a substantial structure of brick, fifty by one hundred feet, and has a very well-appointed place. In addition to his general garage business, in connection with which he conducts a first-class service station, Mr. Pederson also acts as agent for the Overland car throughout that locality and has done very well.

On August 14, 1902, Lars P. Pederson was united in marriage to Miriam Jacobson, daughter of the Rev. J. C. Jacobson, now of Windom, and to this union five children have been born, Lila, Myron, Harriet, Kern and Arline, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Pederson is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### JAMES J. WALSH.

James J. Walsh was born in England on May 17, 1865, the son of Anthony and Barbara (Gillespie) Walsh. Anthony Walsh and family came to the United States in 1866, when James J. was but one year of age. They landed in New York City and came direct to Fox Lake, Wisconsin. Here they made their home for three years, when they came to Watonwan county and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Fieldon township, in section 25. The farm was increased until there was four hundred and eighty acres in the tract. Mr. Walsh retired from active life in 1896 and moved to Madelia, where he died in June, 1907. Mrs. Walsh died in 1904. Anthony Walsh and wife were the parents of the following children: Ellen, James, Barbara and William. The family are all members of the Catholic church.

James J. Walsh grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the schools of Fieldon township. In January, 1906, he was married to Catherine Kennedy, and to this union one child has been born, William Clyde, who was born on September 24, 1911.

James J. Walsh is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 25 and 26, and the place where he now lives, which was a part of his father's farm. He does general farming and feeds some five hundred head of sheep and one hundred hogs each year. He also conducts a large dairy. Mr. Walsh and family are members of the Catholic church at Madelia.

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### JOHN E. KOPPERUD.

John E. Kopperud, a well-known and substantial farmer of Ann township, Cottonwood county, owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the old Hudson farm, on rural route No. 1, out of Revere, and actively identified with the work of developing the interests of that community, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was thirteen years old. He was born on December 23, 1879, son of Knute E. and Emma Kopperud, who later became residents of Cottonwood county, where the latter is still living.

Knute E. Kopperud was reared as a farmer in Norway and later moved to Christiana, where he was engaged in the milk business. In 1891 he came to the United States with his family and settled in Buena Vista county, Iowa, where he farmed for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1899, he came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county. He bought two hundred and forty acres of wild land in section 23, Ann township, and there established his home and was beginning to have the place well improved when death put a stop to his labors in the spring of 1904. His widow is still living on the home farm. They were the parents of ten children, of whom John E. was the first in order of birth, the others being as follow: Christina; who died in infancy; Charlotte, who married J. Takle, a farmer of Ann township; Severn, who is farming south of Tracy, this state; Jorgen, who died at the age of four years in Iowa; Eimar, a farmer, of Ann township; Evald, who is farming south of Walnut Grove; Elma, who is with her mother on the home farm, and Juel and Cora, also at home.

John E. Kopperud was about twelve years old when he came to this country with his parents in 1892. He continued his studies for awhile in Iowa and helped in the work of the farm there, remaining with his parents when they came to Minnesota about 1899. Four years after he came to this state, on December 29, 1903, he married Amelia Josephine Hanson, and started out for himself on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section

23, Ann township, which he rented for a year, at the end of which time he went to North Dakota, where he bought a quarter of a section of wild prairie land in Ransom county, which he set about improving, but a year later traded that place for a farm of eighty acres in Ann township, Cottonwood county, and returned to the latter place. In addition to farming that eighty he rented the old Hanson farm and operated both places, presently selling his own tract of eighty acres to his brother and buying the Hanson place of one hundred and sixty acres, where he since has made his home. He has built a new barn on the place and otherwise improved it and is now very well situated. He rents eighty acres of the old Kopperud farm, operating the same in addition to his own place, and gives some attention to the raising of live stock in addition to his general farming and is doing very well. Mr. Kopperud is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Revere.

In his political views he is an independent Socialist. For some time he was clerk of school district No. 4. Mr. and Mrs. Kopperud have an adopted son, Louis Arthur. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper part in all neighborhood good works.

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#### BERTEL A. ANDERSON.

Bertel A. Anderson, a well-to-do retired farmer, of Madelia township, Watonwan county, still living on the old home farm in that township, though having sold the same some years ago to his son, Osten M. Anderson, one of the most substantial young farmers in that neighborhood, is a native of Norway, born on January 20, 1839, son of Andrew and Rachel (Anderson) Anderson, natives of that same country. Andrew Anderson died in his native land and his widow and her son, Bertel A., shortly afterward came to Minnesota to join other members of the family who previously had settled in the Madelia neighborhood.

Upon his arrival here Bertel A. Anderson bought a tract of land in Madelia township. One year before leaving Norway he married Olinia Hermanson, also a native of Norway, born on May 5, 1843, and established his home on the farm, where he is still living. He did well at his farming operations and gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, which he farmed until advancing years warned him to relax his labors. He then sold the place to his son, Osten



M. Anderson, who is continuing the cultivation of the farm, the father meanwhile continuing to make his home on the old place. Bertel A. Anderson was well past the school age when he came to this country. He had acquired his education in his native land and has never taken the trouble to learn the English language. He is an earnest member of the Lutheran church, as was his wife, who died on March 1, 1915; and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, namely: Mrs. Ella Anderson, a widow, at home in Madelia; Ole, unmarried; Soren, who married Ransie Johnson; Sarah, unmarried; John, unmarried; Herman, who married Mary Ask; Osten M., unmarried, the present owner of the old home place, and Abraham, deceased.

Osten M. Anderson was born on the farm which he now owns on November 22, 1882. He received his education in the schools in the neighborhood of his home and has always made his home on the farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the work of developing and improving the same. The farm is well improved. A substantial new house was erected in 1890, and in 1896 the present barn was built. O. M. Anderson is a good farmer and the appearance of his place gives evidence of his progressive methods. In addition to the old home farm he also is the owner of another tract of land of one hundred and twenty acres, thus being the possessor of three hundred and sixty acres in all and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that part of the county.

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### LAURITS PETERSON.

Laurits Peterson, one of the most substantial pioneer farmers of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and eighty acres in the vicinity of Madelia, where he has made his home for more than forty years, is a native of Norway, born on November 7, 1847, son of Peter and Carrie (Lumberg) Peterson, natives of that country, who became pioneers of this section of Minnesota and spent their last days here.

Peter Peterson was the son of Peter Peterson, a Norwegian farmer and a trained soldier, who spent his whole life in his native land. The younger Peter Peterson grew up to the life of the farm in his home country and there married, continuing to farm there until he and his wife came to the United States, locating in Washington county, Iowa, where they remained for two years, at the end of which time they came to Minnesota and

joined the pioneer settlers who were beginning to occupy the choice lands in this part of the state. Peter Peterson bought a tract of land in Madelia township, Watonwan county, established his home there and there he and his wife spent their last days, honored pioneers of that community, the former dying in 1901 and the latter in 1902. They were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, of whom Laurits was the first born, the others being Catherine, Gillis (deceased) and Nicholas.

Laurits Peterson was twenty-two years old when he came to this country. He had received his schooling in the government schools of his native land and had grown up to the life of the farm. Upon coming to Minnesota in 1873 he took an active part in the work of developing the homestead farm, a valuable assistant to his father, and early became recognized as one of the substantial pioneers of that community. In 1876 he homesteaded the farm of one hundred and eighty acres, on which he still is living and after his marriage, in 1879, established his home there and quickly brought the place to a high state of cultivation. Twenty-eight years ago he replaced the pioneer house in which he and his wife began their home-keeping by the present substantial residence and later erected more substantial buildings in keeping with the general well-kept condition of the farm. Mr. Peterson, in addition to his general farming, gave considerable attention to the raising of high-grade cattle and hogs and did very well. Of late years he has practically been retired from the active labors of the farm, the management of which he has turned over to his son, Carl, who is carrying on the work of the farm in progressive fashion, in accordance with modern agricultural methods and is recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood.

It was on December 6, 1879, that Laurits Peterson was united in marriage to Augusta Marie Sunberg, who was born in Norway on December 19, 1858, and who had come to this part of Minnesota with her parents in pioneer days, and to this union were born five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are living, as follow: Peter, unmarried, who lives at Montrose, South Dakota; Carl, also unmarried, who has traveled extensively throughout the middle West, and who is now managing the old homestead farm for his father; Joseph, who married Minnie Winder, and is now living in southern Minnesota; Edward, who married Clara Winder, and is also living in Minnesota, and Mary, who married Bert Johnson. The Petersons are members of the Lutheran church and for many years have been regarded as among the leaders in the work of the local congregation of that

church and in the general good works of the community in which they have lived since pioneer days, ever active and influential in the promotion of movements designed to advance the cause of the common weal thereabout.

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### DIETRICH STOESS.

Dietrich Stoess, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of an excellent farm of six hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, is a native of Russia, born at Schoenthal, March 14, 1866, son of John and Mary (Hepner) Stoess, both natives of that same district in the Czar's domain, who came to the United States in 1877 and proceeded to Minnesota, settling in Watonwan county. There John Stoess bought a quarter of a section of land in the western part of the county and established his home. He was an excellent farmer and prospered in his operations, eventually becoming the owner of a full section of land, where he made his home until his retirement from the farm in 1903 and removed to the village of Mountain Lake, where his death occurred in the following year, 1904, he then being sixty-five years of age. His widow survived for a little more than ten years, her death occurring on August 8, 1914. They were earnest members of the Mennonite church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom Dietrich was the second in order of birth, the others being Mary (deceased), Jacob, John, Cornelius, Peter, David (deceased) and Erdman.

Dietrich Stoess was about eleven years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents in 1877 and he has lived in the neighborhood in which the family settled in Watonwan county ever since. Upon coming here he entered the public schools and supplemented the course there by later attendance in a private Mennonite school. He early took his place as an assistant to his father and brothers in the development of the home farm and became an excellent practical farmer. He was married in 1890, and in 1896 bought the northeast quarter of section 25, in Midway township, Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he has lived ever since. As he prospered in his farming operations Mr. Stoess added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of almost a full section of land, part of it being over the line in Watonwan county. He has improved his place in admirable fashion, has a substantial and comfortable residence, ex-



cellent barns and other fine buildings and has long been regarded as one of the leading farmers of the Mountain Lake neighborhood. Mr. Stoess also is the owner of a threshing rig, which is in wide demand during the threshing season. Mr. Stoess is a Republican and takes an active interest in local political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

On January 17, 1890, Dietrich Stoess was united in marriage to Helena Harder, of Watonwan county, and to this union have been born eleven children, all of whom are living save two, John and Wilhelm, the others being John, Abraham, Jacob, Mary, Dietrich, Peter, Erdman, Cornelius and Aaron, the first named of whom is occupying the farm his father owns in Watonwan county. Mr. and Mrs. Stoess are active members of the Menonite church, in the affairs of which they have ever taken a deep interest, and Mr. Stoess is treasurer of the school maintained by that church at Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

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#### AUGUST E. LINDQUIST.

August E. Lindquist, one of the prominent citizens of Watonwan county, was born on September 26, 1879, being the son of Gustave and Augusta Lindquist. Gustave and Augusta Lindquist are natives of Sweden and came to the United States when young. They settled in Watonwan county some fifty years ago. When young people they met and later married. In early life Mr. Lindquist homesteaded eighty acres of land. Since that time he has added to the original tract considerable land and owns much property in St. James. He lives on the old homestead in Long Lake township, near the lake. To Gustave and Augusta Lindquist were born five children: Christine, the wife of Elof Erickson; Edward, Albert, Tillie, the wife of O. K. Haugen, and August E.

August E. Lindquist received his education in the public schools of his township and in the schools of St. James. After completing his education he worked on the farm and followed threshing for a time. He was later employed as a salesman and collector for a machine company for nine years. He has been a resident of St. James for about fifteen years. He is recognized as a man of much ability and has many friends. In 1908 he was elected sheriff of his county for two years, and was twice re-elected for a similar term, and in 1914 he was elected for a term of four years. His official life has been above criticism and his tenure of office is an index of his standing in the county, where he has spent his life.



In 1907 Mr. Lindquist was married to Edith Olson, of Watonwan county. To this union two children have been born; Ruth, born in 1911, and Donald, born in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Lindquist are members of the Lutheran church.

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### NATHANIEL P. MINION.

Nathaniel P. Minion, member of the board of county commissioners of Cottonwood county, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of that county, and who also is extensively engaged in the business of buying and selling live stock, proprietor of a fine farm in Delton township and also actively interested in the banking and elevator business at Bingham Lake, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has lived in Minnesota since he was twelve years old. He was born on a farm in Canada, June 6, 1859, son of Arthur and Rhoda (Griffin) Minion, who became pioneers of Cottonwood county and spent their last days here.

Arthur Minion was born in Ireland in 1811. When twenty years of age, in 1831, he crossed the water and settled in Canada, where he married. He had been trained to the trade of weaver in Ireland, but upon locating in Canada became a farmer and the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, making his home on that farm until 1865, in which year he sold his place and came to the United States, settling in Clinton county, Iowa, where he farmed until 1871, in June of which year he came to Minnesota and homesteaded a quarter of a section in section 4 of Carson township, Cottonwood county, where he established his home. He hauled lumber from Madelia and erected a shanty on his place and there made his home during those "lean" years that marked the grasshopper visitations of that period. In 1879 he built a better house, having by that time got his farm pretty well under cultivation and was regarded as one of the substantial and influential farmers of that community. He was a public-spirited man, ever taking an active part in local political affairs, and did well his part in the development of that part of Cottonwood county. Arthur Minion was accidentally killed while working about a horse-power threshing-machine on September 6, 1885. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in the fall of 1912, she then being ninety-four years of age. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eleventh in order of birth, the others being Mary Ann (deceased), William

(deceased), Robert, Sarah Jane (deceased), Arthur, Eliza Jane (deceased), Charlotte, Amanda, James, Martha and Sarah.

Nathaniel P. Minion was about six years old when his parents moved from Canada to Iowa and was about twelve when they came to this state. He grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Carson township, helping in the development of the same, and remained at home until his marriage in the spring of 1881, after which he rented a place in section 10, of Carson township, where he lived for a couple of years, at the end of which time he bought from his brother, Arthur Minion, the homestead right to a quarter section in section 34, Delton township. On that tract he built a small house and barn and entered upon possession in 1886, remaining there until he moved to his present place in 1898. In the meantime he had bought the northwest quarter of section 28 in Delton township and in 1898 traded his homestead place for the adjoining southwest quarter and there has made his home ever since. When he entered upon possession the place was almost wholly unimproved and he has brought it to a fine state of cultivation, improved it in up-to-date fashion, planted trees and made the place one of the most attractive in that part of the county. Mr. Minion has done well in his farming and stock-raising operations and has added to his land holdings by the purchase of two hundred and forty acres in section 29, of Delton township, and one hundred and sixty acres in section 35, of Ann township. He is widely known as a stock buyer and ships a carload of cattle to St. Paul every week, besides maintaining various other business interests. He is the vice-president of the First State Bank of Bingham Lake, a stockholder and director in the Carson Farmers Elevator Company and a stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company. Mr. Minion is a Republican and for years has given close attention to local political affairs, now serving his third term as a member of the board of county commissioners, of which board he has been chairman two terms. For sixteen or seventeen years he served as assessor of his home township; was township clerk for some years and also served for some time as a justice of the peace, while he has been clerk of the board of his local school district for many years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of the World and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

It was on March 20, 1881, that Nathaniel P. Minion was united in marriage to Augusta Bastian, who was born in Germany and who had come to this country with her parents when she was a young girl, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Robert W., a well-known

(18a)

young farmer of Delton township, who married Laurel Davis and has two children, Walter and Wesley; Frank S., also farming in Delton township, who married Winifred Fox and has one child, a son, Russell; Bertha, who married James Fairburn, of Saskatchewan, and has five children, Leslie, Nathaniel P., Ethel, Earl and Dorothy; Lewis, also farming in Delton township, who married Bertha DeWolfe and has one child, a son, Donald; Effie, who married Harry Gravell, a farmer of Ann township, and Reuben and John, who are at home. The Minions are members of the Methodist church and take an active interest in the promotion of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common interest hereabout.

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### WILLIAM WALLACE McLAUGHLIN.

The New Englanders have been noted as a hardy race. Wherever they have settled they have been noted for their thrift, fortitude and good citizenship. Among this class, who have cast their lot with the people of Watonwan county, are the McLaughlins, of Fieldon township.

William Wallace McLaughlin was born at Hartford, Vermont, January 27, 1848. He is a son of Lewis H. and Sarah H. (Hatch) McLaughlin, The father was born in Canada in 1799, grew up on a farm and married there, finally moving to Cook county, Illinois, where they lived until 1864, when they came to Rice county, Minnesota, where they lived two years, locating in Watonwan county in 1866, homesteading eighty acres, and there spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1886, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. The mother, who was born in 1807, died in 1884. They came here in pioneer days and developed a farm from the wild prairie, living in a sod house for sometime. They were menaced by prairie fires and many other things which would have discouraged people of less sterling mettle. They were active members of the Methodist church. To these parents seven children were born, named as follow: James and Jane, who are both deceased; Phineas and Adelia, who are both living; Abigail is deceased; Emma is living, and William Wallace, the subject of this sketch.

William W. McLaughlin grew up on the home farm and he received his education in the district schools. He has followed general farming and stock raising all his life and owns eighty acres of good land, which was originally prairie. He has planted the following varieties of trees on his land: Cottonwood, ash, soft maple, willow. He has a cosy home, which he has



remodeled a number of times. Politically, he is a Republican, and has been treasurer of the township of Fieldon for twenty-nine years. During the past twenty years the township elections have been held at his place.

Mr. McLaughlin was married in 1875 to Christine Siharffenberg, who was born in Easterdahlen, Norway, January 26, 1851. She came to Minnesota when young. Mrs. McLaughlin owns forty acres joining the homestead on the south. To this union the following children have been born: A. U., born on December 15, 1875, was reared on the homestead and educated in the local public schools. He married Emma Colebank, a daughter of E. Colebank. Their union has been without issue, but they have an adopted son, Loren C. A. U. McLaughlin holds title to one hundred and twenty acres and farms his father's place also, making two hundred and forty acres in all. He has been engaged for the past eleven years in raising and shipping to all parts of Minnesota a fine grade of Yorkshire hogs, which, owing to their superior quality, find a very ready market, and he has become widely known in this business. He is a Prohibitionist. He served his township as assessor several terms. He belongs to the Presbyterian church, is president of the County Sunday School Association and of the local creamery.

May McLaughlin, second child of the subject of this sketch, was born May 6, 1878, married John P. Erickson, and they have two children, Elna and Eunice. Nellie McLaughlin, the third child of the subject of this sketch, was born October 29, 1880, married Frank M. Colebank, also a son of E. Colebank, and they have two children, Donald and Lloyd.

In 1870 Mr. McLaughlin lost his crops through the grasshopper plague; in 1871 blight visited and destroyed his crops, which again in 1879 were ruined by a hailstorm.

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## MOSES KIMBALL ARMSTRONG.

(Written by a Friend.)

It affords great pleasure to present an account of the life record of the above named distinguished gentleman. He was a man not alone of Minnesota, but of the nation, and largely through his efforts the great Northwest, with its vast resources and advantages, has been opened up to civilization. With a devotion and self-sacrifice that is seldom equaled, he gave of his time and energies to the work that has made this region a habitable place, and we can hold him in grateful remembrance for what he did and tell to our children the story of his heroism.

Moses K. Armstrong was born in Milan, Erie county, Ohio, December



19, 1832, and came from an old New England family of Scotch-American origin. The grandfather, Augustus Armstrong, was born in Connecticut and spent his entire life in that state, engaged on a whaling vessel. He lost his life by being dragged overboard into the sea while harpooning a whale. The father of Moses K. also bore the name of Augustus and he, too, was a native of Connecticut; was reared in Stonington, was a farmer by occupation and in his early life served as captain of militia in northern Ohio. Thomas H. Armstrong, one of the sons, has been lieutenant-governor of Minnesota, and another son, Augustus, was United States marshal of the state.

M. K. Armstrong was educated in Huron Institute and the Western Reserve College of Ohio and held high rank as a mathematician. When only eighteen years of age he moved westward and engaged in the land surveys of northern Iowa. From that time on he was identified with the wonderful development of the Northwest. He became a man of wide influence, but instead of using his power for self-aggrandizement or personal advancement, he practically gave his life for others with an unselfishness deserving of all commendation. After two years spent in Iowa he came to Minnesota, then a territory wild and unimproved, and surveyed much of the land in the southern and western parts of the state. In 1856 he was elected surveyor of Mower county and while traveling with chain and compass through pioneer localities, he gathered material and wrote a history of the community. He was one of the delegates to the first Democratic state convention held in Minnesota, which nominated General Sibley as Minnesota's first state governor. The first surveyor-general appointed him as one of his deputies and assigned him to the survey of government lands in southwestern Minnesota and in 1858 he surveyed into sections the land of which Watonwan county is now composed. His friend, D. Bearup, a New York investor in Watonwan county securities, in writing him concerning this county, said: "But what is a still greater source of gratification is that as a pioneer in Watonwan county you have watched it and sustained it in its tottering infancy and have done much to put it safely and firmly upon its feet. This is an achievement that few men could accomplish and still fewer would so far divest themselves of selfishness as to accomplish it if they could. Watonwan county is making its material for history. In that history you cannot be a mere incident, but it will have to be very largely based on you, to be history at all; and it is a great pleasure to us to believe that the patriotism, generosity and faith which you have devoted to the struggling settlers will be gratefully remembered long after you have left the scene."

When Dakota was made a territory separate from Minnesota, Mr. Armstrong made his way into that unorganized region and surveyed some of the first claims and townsites for the new settlers on the land which the Yankton Indians had just ceded to the United States in southern Dakota. He was a member of the first Territorial Legislature of Dakota, on its organization in 1861; was re-elected for a second term and became speaker of the House when Dakota embraced, besides the domain included in North and South Dakota, the territories of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. For many years following he was prominent in public life, but whether in office or out he was always laboring for the development and advancement of the Northwest. The Northern Pacific railroad, which became the national highway of this region, was established by a company which numbered him among the incorporators, by act of Congress in 1862. During the Civil War, Mr. Armstrong was a supporter of the Democracy and edited the *Dakota Union* in the interests of that party. In 1864 he was appointed clerk of the supreme court of Dakota and the following year was elected treasurer of the territory. He was sent as a senator to the Legislature, where he served as presiding officer in 1867, and in 1870 was elected by the Democrats as a delegate to Congress. He gave his first term salary for the purchase of a printing press with which was founded the *Dakota Herald*, the first prominent Democratic paper in the territory and is today the oldest party newspaper in the state. In 1872 he was again elected to Congress and in 1874 he was re-nominated for a third term, but declined to be a candidate. No man did more effective service for the Northwest in the halls of Congress, and through his labors and devotion he forwarded the interests of this section in a way that brought material prosperity and rapid progress to a region that is now becoming a power in the country.

One of the most important acts in the life of Mr. Armstrong was the negotiations with the Indians in securing the lands that belonged to the Sioux tribe. He was fitted for this work by his study of the habits, customs and beliefs of the red men and knew how to deal advantageously with them. He lived through the attacks which were made on the settlers by the treacherous savage, and his able pen has given to the world a graphic account of these trying times. He acted as recording secretary for the Indian peace commission in 1867, and visited every tribe of Sioux Indians on the Missouri river as far north as the Yellowstone country. He was the first man to frame and introduce a bill in Congress in 1871, whereby the secretary of the interior should have authority to treat with the Sioux Indians and purchase from them their rights to the Black Hills country. He knew of the

vast resources, the mineral wealth, the climatic conditions, the fine agricultural districts of the region over which the Indians had control, and through his instrumentality this valuable region was finally secured. But the work which gives Mr. Armstrong the strongest claim to the esteem and gratitude of the Dakotans is his "History of Dakota," in 1866. One may suppose that Dakota could not have had much history up to that date, but a perusal of Armstrong's book will show that the history of Dakota reaches back to the earliest years of the century, when Napoleon sold to the government of the United States the Territory of Louisiana, in which the Dakotas were included.

Mr. Armstrong, while in Congress, also received from the government a charter for the first National bank established in the territory once embraced in Dakota's boundaries and was afterward made its president, the bank being located at Yankton. In 1876 he was appointed by the governor of Dakota to prepare and deliver at Philadelphia the centennial address on the resources of the territory, which afterward appeared in pamphlet form, having been published by the Lippincott Publishing Company. In 1877 he began to concentrate his business affairs, which before had been scattered over a wide range and the following year being appointed railroad land agent he moved to St. James, where he established what is known as the Old Bank, which had a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, and of which he was sole proprietor and manager. During the last few years of his life he retired from activities publicly and devoted his time to his personal affairs only. Since he had arrived in Watonwan county, however, he served as county treasurer two years—1881-2—and was city treasurer more than a dozen years. He was one of the largest property owners in Watonwan county, and donated the grounds on which stand many of the public buildings. He was a life member of the State Historical Society, and one of Minnesota's lakes bears his name. He was married in 1872 to an estimable lady, Martha Borden, a native of Detroit, Michigan, born in 1833, the daughter of Antoine and Victoria Borden, who were of French descent.

Mr. Armstrong was identified with almost every line of trade and enterprise. He was instrumental in establishing the early railway systems of the Northwest; the aid of Congress in securing the wealth and privileges to a race that could utilize them, was advocated by him. In procuring legislation he played a prominent part, and the Northwest is truly his debtor. A life well spent, a talent well used, deserves the reward that ever comes to the just and honorable. We cannot better close this review than with the words spoken of him by one who knew his career long and well—John F. Meagher,



president of the Citizens' National Bank at Mankato. He says: "I glory in the man, who, after long years of a business career, surrounded by continuous vicissitudes and those of the kind that try men's souls, when such a man can stand erect and look all men in the face and say honestly before God, 'I have done you no wrong.' What more could man do to deserve a crown? Such I believe your life to be. 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"

It is to be regretted that the last years of Mr. Armstrong's career were cast beneath a cloud on account of his big bank failure, in which many lost heavily. He lost his wife and nearly all of his great wealth; he was taken to Albert Lea, Minnesota, and died a few years ago.

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### LAMONT HOWARD TACKELS.

LaMont Howard Tackels, one of the prominent farmers of Antrim township, is a native of Watonwan county, having been born here on December 17, 1879. He is the son of Martin Van Buren and Frances H. (Zimmerman) Tackels. Martin Van Buren Tackels was born in Michigan on August 13, 1840, while Frances Tackels was a native of Waterloo, New York, having been born there on December 29, 1846. William Zimmerman, the father of Mrs. Tackels, was born in Pennsylvania. He later moved to Waterloo, New York, and then to Edgerton, Wisconsin, where he died in July, 1879. His life had been devoted to the cultivation of the soil.

Horace H. Tackels, the grandfather of LaMont Howard Tackels, was of English descent. He married Samantha Webster and they lived for a time on a farm in Michigan. They later moved to a farm near Edgerton, Wisconsin, and then to Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he owned a farm in Pleasant Mounds township. He served for two years in the Civil War. Horace H. and Samantha Tackels were the parents of the following children: Minerva, deceased; Martin Van Buren, Hattie, Sylvia, deceased; Mart, and Charles, deceased.

Martin Van Buren Tackels was educated in the common and high schools of Michigan and Wisconsin. He and Mrs. Tackels are the parents of the following children: Kittie Eleanor, Mettie Grace, and LaMont Howard. Kittie Eleanor was born on March 7, 1866. She is the wife of W. D. Hadley, of Martin county, Minnesota. They have one child, Frances Gertrude. Mettie Grace was born on March 4, 1872. She is the wife of W.



L. Hackney. They have two children, Harrold LaMont and Francis Martin. LaMont Howard, the subject of this sketch, married Helen Killmer, and to this union three children have been born, Mettie Eleanor, Edith Evelyn, deceased, and Marion Helen.

While in high school, LaMont Howard Tackels held positions on the *Madelia Messenger* and on the *Times*. He is progressive and well-informed.

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### W. J. McCARTHY, M. D.

Dr. W. J. McCarthy, of Madelia, one of the best-known physicians in this part of the state, is a native son of Watonwan county and has lived there practically all his life, being thus thoroughly conversant with the growth and development of this region since the days of the pioneers. He was born on a pioneer farm in Antrim township, Watonwan county, March 2, 1868, son of John and Margaret (Thompson) McCarthy, early settlers in that section of the county, who are now living comfortably retired in their pleasant home at Madelia.

John McCarthy was born near the city of Belfast, in the north of Ireland, August 15, 1840, son of Edward and Esther (Casement) McCarthy, both natives of that same section of Ireland, the former of whom, a shoemaker, died when his son, John, the eldest of his four children, was six years old. When not yet twenty-two years of age, in May, 1862, John McCarthy left his native land and came to the New World, landing at Quebec. The next year he came into the Northwest and settled at Westfield, Wisconsin, where he married Margaret Thompson, and in 1864 came to Minnesota, locating in Wabasha county, whence, in 1866, he came over into this part of the state and pre-empted a homestead tract, at the same time taking a timber claim in section 12 of what presently became Antrim township, Watonwan county. That fall he assisted in the organization of his home township and secured for it the name of Antrim, in honor of the county in which he was born in Ireland. He took an active part in early civic affairs, was the first clerk of Antrim township and later served for some time as supervisor. John McCarthy was a good farmer and his affairs prospered from the very start. He lived on his homestead farm for fourteen years, at the end of which time, in 1880, he sold his place to advantage and moved over into Lincoln township, Blue Earth county, where he bought a farm of four hundred and seventy-nine acres and there established

his home, remaining there for thirty-four years, or until 1914, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Madelia, where they are now living and where they have a beautiful home. During his residence in Blue Earth county, Mr. McCarthy also was active in public affairs and for years was chairman of the local board in his home township. He took an earnest interest in the cause of the schools and his children were given every opportunity to acquire a good education, four of them being graduates of Carleton College. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy are members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith. There are twelve of these children, all living, of whom Doctor McCarthy is the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: E. F., who is living on the old home farm in Blue Earth county; Robert H., who is living on his own farm; James N., also a farmer, who makes his home at Madelia; Garfield, on the old home farm; Oscar, also on the farm; Richard, who was graduated from Carleton College and is now engaged as an assayer in the mines at Butte, Montana; Esther, at home with her parents; Bessie, also at home; the Rev. Samuel McCarthy, a graduate of Carleton College, now pastor of the Congregational church at Chamberlain, South Dakota; Rachel, at home, and Margaret, a graduate of Carleton College, who is now a member of the faculty of the Normal School at Bellingham, Washington.

Dr. W. J. McCarthy is a student as well as a physician and is ever keeping abreast of the wonderful advancement that is being made in modern medical science. He was well equipped by preparatory study for the practice of his profession and from the days of his youth his studies were pursued with his ultimate profession in view. Upon completing the course in the public schools of Antrim township, he entered Carleton College, from which he was graduated in 1894. In the fall of that same year he matriculated at the medical department of Northwestern University at Chicago and was graduated from that excellent institution, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1897. This admirably equipped for the practice of his chosen profession, Doctor McCarthy returned to his home state and located at Madelia, where he opened an office and where he has been practicing ever since, long having been regarded as one of the leading physicians of this part of the state. He is a member of the County Medical Association, the Minnesota State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and takes an earnest interest in the affairs of these several professional organizations. Doctor McCarthy is "independent" in his political views and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. For two years he served as mayor of Madelia and in other ways has done his part in the

civic life of the community. He was president of the school board for twelve years and a member of board for three years more.

Doctor McCarthy has a most competent and admirable helpmate in the labors of his exacting profession, Mrs. McCarthy, who, before her marriage, was Lella Clark, a daughter of John Clark, taking her part, together with the Doctor, in the various social and cultural activities of Madelia and ever interested in such measures as are designed to advance the common good hereabout. Doctor and Mrs. McCarthy have two sons, Donald and Richard. They are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same. Doctor McCarthy is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, a member of the blue lodge at Madelia; of the chapter at St. James and of the commandery at New Ulm. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### GEORGE DRAKE.

There is a certain distinction in being a native of the Empire state, which has furnished many great men to our national life and has from the beginning been a potent factor in the affairs of the Union. One of those who hail from within her borders is George Drake, farmer of Fieldon township, Watonwan county. He was born in Monroe county, New York, September 26, 1844, and is a son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Perrin) Drake. Grandfather Thomas Perrin was a native of England, a miller by occupation, and he finally settled at Rochester, New York. Isaac Drake was also a native of England and was married there, and five of his children were born in that country. He then removed with his family to America and settled in the state of New York, locating in Monroe county, where he engaged in farming, removing to Cheboygan county, Wisconsin, in 1854, buying eighty acres there, on which he spent the rest of his life. He was a member of the Baptist church. He was twice married, and his family consisted of the following children: Mary, James, John, Eliza, William, Jane, George and Isaac.

George Drake grew up on the farm where he worked when a boy and he received his education in the public schools. In 1867 he came to Minnesota and took up a homestead in Fieldon township, Watonwan county, but did not prove up on it. Later he purchased eighty acres on which he has



since resided. He was a pioneer. There were but ten miles of railroad in the state when he came to Minnesota; the country was sparsely settled, and dangers beset him on every hand, not the least of which were prairie fires. He worked hard and developed a productive farm from the raw prairie. He first built a small pine house on his land, in which he lived fifteen years. He set out the first tree—a cottonwood—in the township. He has since set out trees of the following varieties: Cottonwood, maple, box-elder, elm, ash, and willow, and now has attractive surroundings to his home. He built his present dwelling in 1889, and his barn in 1908.

Mr. Drake was married in 1869 to Ellen Johnson, a daughter of Warren Johnson, a pioneer in Minnesota. To this union one child has been born, Earl H. Drake.

Politically, Mr. Drake is a Republican. He has never cared for public office. He is a member of the Baptist church.

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### JACOB BROGGER.

An influential citizen of Butterfield, Watonwan county, is Jacob Brogger, banker, who has long been one of the boosters of his community and has promoted its interests in all legitimate ways.

Mr. Brogger was born in Norway, January 3, 1877, and is a son of N. C. and Margrethe (Jervel) Brogger, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, attended school, were married and established their permanent home, and there they still reside. The father is a minister in the Lutheran church.

Jacob Brogger grew to manhood in his native land and there received his education. When twenty years of age he set sail for "the land of the free," and terminated his long journey at Butterfield, Watonwan county, Minnesota, where he has continued to reside. He had little capital upon reaching this place, and in order to get a start worked two summers on the farm, then clerked in the store of C. N. Sonnesyn in Butterfield, for four years. In 1903 the State Bank of Butterfield was organized, and Mr. Brogger was offered the position of assistant cashier, which he accepted. In 1904 he became cashier, and in 1908 was advanced to the presidency, which position he still holds. He has been the prime motive power in this safe and popular institution from the first and his industry, honesty and sound judgment have made it a decided success. A general banking business is carried



on, and the bank has modern fixtures. He is also interested in real estate and has done considerable business in this line.

Mr. Brogger was married in 1903 to Emma Brynildson, a native of St. James, Minnesota, where she was reared and educated. She is a daughter of Fred Brynildson and wife. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, named as follow: Ragnhild, Niel, Maureen and Jacob Brogger.

Mr. Brogger is a Republican in politics and has been active in public affairs for some time. He served as village recorder for a period of six years, and is now county commissioner. Religiously, he belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished in a strange land, unaided and alone, and without capital, forging his way to the front over obstacles that would have discouraged most men.

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#### M. C. VOLD.

M. C. Vold was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, August 6, 1887, a son of C. J. and Julia Vold, both natives of Norway. They came to America in 1840 and located in LaSalle county, Illinois, where they lived until 1878, when they moved to Story county, Iowa. There the father died in 1912; the mother is still living.

M. C. Vold was educated in the common schools of Story county, Iowa. He started out to make his own way at the age of sixteen, working at odd jobs as he could find them. The first steady employment he found was a position as a clerk in a store, at Southernland, Iowa. The wages were small, but he stuck to his job for three years and made good. His next place was at Soo Rapids, Iowa, where he held a clerkship in a store for five years. In 1894 he started in the grocery business in Chicago, and conducted that business for about three years. Then he went to Alto, Iowa, and worked there for about four years; then started a general store at Sulphur Springs, Iowa, in partnership with C. P. Comelinson. He disposed of his interest there and, in the fall of 1902, he came to Jeffers. Here, in company with his former partner, he opened up a general store. In 1912 he bought the interest of his partner and has since been carrying on the business in his own name. He is also interested in real estate, being the owner of farms in Cottonwood and Murray counties.

Mr. Vold was married to Amanda Anderson. To this union five children have been born: Harold M., George A., Leslie C., Helen A., who died when young, and Neida M. Mrs. Vold is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Vold affiliates with the Republican party.

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### JOHN S. ENGLIN.

John S. Englin was born in Adrian township, Watonwan county, January 9, 1872, a son of Swan and Kari (Swanson) Englin, who were both born in Sweden. Swan Englin was a farmer and wagon-maker while living in Sweden. He came to America in 1870 and located for a short time in St. Peter, Nicollet county, Minnesota. There he was employed in the construction of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, between St. Peter and St. James. In 1871 he came to Adrian township, Watonwan county, and located on a farm in section 12, and, in 1874, he located a homestead in section 10, Adrian township. He lived on this farm for the rest of his life. He died in April, 1912. His wife, to whom he was married in 1871, is still living. Swan Englin was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. He was a Republican and served as treasurer of Adrian township.

John S. Englin is said to be the first boy born in Adrian township. The other children in this family are: Anna, Emma, Ida, Mary and Carl.

John S. Englin was educated in the public schools of Adrian township, and during his early years worked with his father on the farm. In 1899 he bought a farm, located across the road from that of his father, and began farming on his own account. His farm comprised two hundred acres, a fine body of land. He continued to operate this farm until 1914, when he discontinued the farming business and, in partnership with A. J. Samuelson, opened up a hardware and implement store in Darfur. He has since given his attention to this business, and still owns his farm, which he manages through renters.

In 1890 John S. Englin and Amanda E. Carlson were united in marriage. Mrs. Englin is a daughter of John A. and Brita Carlson. To this union five children have been born: Arthur B., Oscar R., Albert A., Aton F., and Richard E.

Mr. and Mrs. Englin are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Politically, Mr. Englin is a Republican. For about nine years he served as treasurer of Adrian township, while a resident on his farm in that township.

## JOHN PEDVIN.

It is not every man that can become a good locomotive engineer. Some lack the courage, the keen eye, the steady nerve and the prompt decision, as well as other characteristics, necessary to the successful engine driver. John Pedvin, of St. James, Watonwan county, seems to possess such attributes, for he has made good on the road.

John Pedvin was born in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, December 15, 1863, and is a son of Daniel and Jane (Moore) Pedvin. The father was a native of the Island of Guernsey in the English Channel, his birth having occurred on April 9, 1820, and the mother was born on February 24, 1828, in London, England. They were married in England in 1850, and they came to Minnesota in 1852, locating near St. Peter, later moved to Rapidan, Blue Earth county, and in 1868 to Watonwan county, where the father took up a homestead of eighty acres in Riverdale township, later buying eighty acres more. He developed a good farm and finally made a visit to his old home in Guernsey Island, where he married his second wife. Coming back to America he spent some time at St. James and at Beatrice, Nebraska, but went back to Guernsey Island, where his death occurred in 1906. His first wife, the mother of John Pedvin, died on June 27, 1878. Nine children were born, namely: Daniel, born in England, December 1, 1852, died on May 28, 1903; Jane, August 23, 1855; Thomas, July 19, 1857, died on February 25, 1895; Rachael, November 20, 1859; Elizabeth, October 7, 1861; John, subject of this sketch; Julia Ann, September 24, 1866, died on November 13, 1896; Frederick W., February 2, 1868, died on October 8, 1907; Evaline Carrie, September 18, 1870. Daniel Pedvin was a Republican, and he held a number of local offices. He was a member of the Episcopal church.

John Pedvin was reared on the farm in Riverdale township and he received his education in the district schools there, walking four miles daily to school. He began life as a farmer, owning a good place, which he finally sold, and entered the railroad service in 1882, in which he remained until 1885, when he farmed again for two years, returning to the road in 1887 and has worked continuously on the road ever since. He was fireman on the Omaha railroad until September 11, 1890, when he was promoted to engineer and he has had charge of an engine ever since. He lived eleven years at Sioux City, but the rest of the time since 1887 he has lived in St. James, returning here in 1897. He built a residence here, in which he lived



until 1913, when he sold it and built an attractive modern residence, where he now lives.

On July 1, 1884, he married Carrie Olson, a native of Washington county, Minnesota, where she was born on August 16, 1866. She is a daughter of Adam and Isabel (Wright) Olson. He was born in Sweden, January 11, 1834; she was born in England, February 18, 1828. Adam Olson came to Minnesota when a young man. He served in the Union army during the Civil War. He was married in this state and lived in Washington county until 1878, when they moved to Riverdale township, Watonwan county, where the father bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is the amount of land he still owns. He purchased more land, but sold it later. He is now living retired in St. James. Mrs. Olson died on March 10, 1895. They were parents of four children, namely: Oliver Andrew, who lives in Noonan, North Dakota; Carrie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Adam, who died in March, 1888, when twenty years old; Eva Isabel lives in Noonan, North Dakota.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pedvin, namely: Esta Luella, born in 1885, died in St. James in 1887; Laura Isabel, February 12, 1891, is a graduate of St. James high school.

The farm which is owned by the father of Mrs. Pedvin is the one on which the Younger brothers were captured after the famous Northfield bank robbery. Mr. Olson has been twice married, his second wife being known before marriage as Anna Nasman, and to this union one son, John, was born on January 2, 1900.

Politically, Mr. Pedvin is a Republican. He is a member of the Episcopal church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Free Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

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### CHARLES LARKIN.

Charles Larkin, a successful farmer of Fieldon township, was born on February 4, 1875, in Blue Earth county, the son of Timothy and Catherine (Heren) Larkin.

Peter Heren, the maternal grandfather of Charles Larkin, was a native of Ireland and came to America late in life, after the death of his wife. His daughter, Catherine, the mother of the subject of this sketch came with



him. They located for a time in Jersey City, New Jersey, after which they moved to Wisconsin and later to Watonwan county.

Timothy Larkin was a native of Ireland and came to the United States when fifteen years of age. He lived for a number of years in the east and there married to Catherine Heren, whose father, Peter Heren, after this made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Larkin. The family moved first to a farm in Wisconsin and later came to Blue Earth county, Minnesota. Thirty-five years ago, they purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where Charles Larkin now lives. He and his family were members of the Catholic church. Timothy Larkin died on September 19, 1901. Mrs. Larkin survived him until December 22, 1908.

To Timothy and Catherine Larkin were born the following children: John; Thomas; Edward; Gilbert and William, both deceased; Charles and Mary.

Charles Larkin was married on February 4, 1914, to Edith Rooney, of Blue Earth county, and the daughter of Thomas Rooney and wife, pioneers of that section.

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### LORENZ LEFFLER.

Lorenz Leffler, a well-known and well-to-do stock farmer and large landowner, of Dale township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of four hundred acres on rural route No. 2, out of Windom, a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Carson and in the Delft Rural Telephone Company, is a native of Germany, born on July 16, 1864, son of Christ and Elizabeth Leffler, the former a carpenter, who were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the first-born, the others being John, Conrad and Elizabeth. Christ Leffler died in his native land years ago. His three sons came to the United States.

Lorenz Leffler grew to manhood in his native land, receiving his education in the government schools, and became an expert farmer. When he was twenty-one years of age he married Elizabeth Thomas and immediately thereafter he and his wife came to America, settling in LaSalle, Illinois, where for six years he worked in a factory. He then went to Iowa, where he rented a farm of one hundred and ninety acres and did well, increasing the extent of his operations until he was renting three hundred and twenty acres. In 1906 he came to this part of Minnesota and bought a partly improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in Dale township, Cotton-





LORENZ LEFFLER AND FAMILY.



HOUSE AND BARN OF LORENZ LEFFLER.





wood county, the farm on which he is now living, but did not occupy the same until 1913. In 1910 he erected a substantial dwelling on the place, but continued his farming operations in Iowa until 1912. A year later, in 1913, he and his family came to this state and occupied the Dale township farm, where they since have made their home and where they are very pleasantly situated. The year in which Mr. Leffler came out here to stay permanently he bought an additional quarter section in Dale township, which his son, Henry Leffler, now occupies. In that same year Mr. Leffler built a large barn, thirty-eight by sixty, on his place and an addition on the barn measuring sixteen by sixty. In addition to his general farming, he has gone in somewhat heavily for stock raising and has done very well. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He has given proper attention to general local business enterprises and is a stockholder in the Carson Farmers Elevator Company and in the Delft Rural Telephone Company. He and his family are members of the German Reformed church and take a proper interest in all local good works.

To Lorenz and Elizabeth (Thomas) Leffler have been born six children, Christ, Henry, Elizabeth, John, Tony and Raymond. The eldest son, Christ Leffler, makes his home in Windom. Henry Leffler married Matilda Brandenburg and lives on his father's second farm, and John Leffler married Okkea Bonk and lives on a farm in Iowa. The remaining three children are at home with their parents.

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### B. J. SCRIBNER.

B. J. Scribner, one of Antrim township's successful farmers was born on July 5, 1865, the son of John B. and Sarah (Wilson) Scribner.

Edward Wilson, the maternal grandfather, a native of England, came alone to the United States at the age of fourteen and located in the state of New York, where he later farmed. He remained a few years and married, after which he came to Winona county, and after a few years later to Blue Earth county, where he made his home.

John B. Scribner is living in Cumberland, Wisconsin, now, at the age of ninety, but has always, until the past four years, made his home in Blue Earth and Watonwan counties since coming from New York state, about

sixty-one years ago. He was married twice; there was born one son, George, by his first wife; by his second wife were born the following: James, Charles, Ella, Jeremiah, William, Burchard, Isaac, Freemont, Eugene, Esther and Emma.

On April 13, 1885, B. J. Scribner was married to Anna Winch, the daughter of James and Elsie (Douglas) Winch, who were pioneers in Martin county, Mrs. Scribner being born there. The following children were born to B. J. and Anna (Winch) Scribner: Cora, the wife of George Davis; they are parents of five children. William was married twice, one son being born to him by his first wife, Doratha (Themer) Scribner, and one son by his second wife, Edell (Cook) Scribner. Frances is the wife of Clifford Sherman; Ida and Cecil are at home.

B. J. Scribner located on his present one hundred and sixty acre farm in section 30, Antrim township, twenty-five years ago. Much has been done to improve the place and in 1913 a large barn was erected.

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### JOSEPH DAVIES.

The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. This fact having been recognized early in life by Joseph Davies, farmer and legislator of Antrim township, Watonwan county, he has seized the small opportunities that he has encountered on the highway that leads to the ultimate goal of success.

Mr. Davies was born in the above-named township and county, September 27, 1867, and is a son of William and Gertrude (Thomas) Davies. James Thomas, the maternal grandfather, was a native of England and there he grew up and married, finally bringing his family to the United States, locating in Wisconsin, settling with an English colony in Columbia county, and there resided until after the death of his wife, then moved to Watonwan county, Minnesota, locating in Antrim township and made his home with the Davies family. William Davies, the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a native of Wales, where he married Mary Williams. They came to America, locating in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where they resided a number of years; then came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, and took up a homestead in Antrim township, of one hundred and sixty acres on which they spent the rest of their lives.

William Davies, Jr., father of the subject whose name heads this review, was a native of Wales, where he spent his boyhood and attended school, being about nineteen years old when he came to America with his parents. He homesteaded eighty acres in Antrim township, to which he later added another eighty, and became one of the progressive farmers of Watonwan county. This place is now owned by his son, Joseph, eldest of his six children, the others being named as follow: Mary, who died when seventeen years old; James T., who married Kate Radcliff; Fred, who married Mary McLain; Bertha and Marcus, who died when about thirty years of age.

Joseph Davies grew up on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received a common-school education, later attending the Mankato Normal, after which he engaged in teaching three years, then filled the office of county superintendent of schools ten years in a very commendable manner, doing much to better the conditions of the schools of Watonwan during that decade. While county superintendent of schools he studied law in the offices of J. L. Lobben and Hammond & Burns and was admitted to the bar in 1908. His principal work since leaving the office of county superintendent has been general farming and stock raising. He owns eighty acres of the homestead and one hundred and sixty acres additional, all well improved and under a high state of cultivation, in fact, he put on all the improvements on his home place.

Mr. Davies was married on June 28, 1905, to Margaret Cumberland, who was born near Franklin, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1877, a daughter of Arthur Cumberland, a native of England, from which country he immigrated to Pennsylvania, and now lives in Canada. In his earlier career he taught school, but is now a farmer. He formerly lived in Dodge county, Minnesota. He married Caroline Homan. Their daughter, Margaret, was given a good education. She is a graduate of the Mantorville high school and the Winona Normal school. She taught for some time in the schools of Dodge county, and later in the city schools of St. James, Minnesota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Davies five children have been born, namely: Elizabeth Gertrude, born on September 4, 1905; Burton Joseph, August 15, 1908; Dorothy, November 28, 1910; William Arthur, June 10, 1913, and Helen Pauline, June 13, 1915.

Politically, Mr. Davies is a Republican, and has long been active in party affairs. He has served two terms in the Legislature, serving through the regular sessions of 1909 and 1911 and the extra session of 1912. He made a very commendable record in the House, his course meeting the hearty approval of his constituents.



Fraternally, Mr. Davies is a member of the blue lodge of Masons of Madelia, and the chapter at St. James; also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Arcanum. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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#### ANDREW W. WARNER.

Seeking better opportunities, many Scandinavians have broken ties of home and native land and have entered earnestly upon the task of gaining a new home in Watonwan and adjoining counties. Andrew W. Warner, lumber dealer of Darfur, is one of this class. He was born in Sweden, September 16, 1867, and is a son of Charles and Christina Warner, both natives of Sweden, where they spent their earlier years and were married. The father came to America in 1869, locating in St. Paul, Minnesota, but in a few months went on to St. Peter, where his wife and son, Andrew W., joined him in 1870, in which year the death of the wife and mother occurred, after a short residence in the new world.

In the spring of 1875 Charles Warner moved to St. James and settled on a homestead of eighty acres in Adrian township, Watonwan county. He had previously remarried, his last wife being Matilda Holm, of St. Peter. He finally moved with his family to Comfrey, Minnesota, in 1909, where he is spending the last years of his life in retirement. The subject of this sketch was his only child by his first wife. To his second marriage five children were born, namely: Carl Alfred, Lydia Matilda, Anna Sophia, Mary Caroline and Amanda Josephina. The father is a member of the Lutheran church. He has never taken an active interest in public affairs, always refusing office.

Andrew W. Warner spent his boyhood on the farm. He was three years old when his mother brought him to America. He received a very limited education, less than six months' schooling in all. When young he learned the carpenter's trade in St. James, which he followed for about twenty years, becoming a highly skilled workman, and continued to reside in St. James. In 1914 he took charge of the C. M. Youmans Lumber Company at Darfur, which he has since managed in a very able manner.

Mr. Warner was married in December, 1902, to Ellen Westberg, of Nelson township, Watonwan county. She is a daughter of A. P. Westberg, a pioneer farmer of that township. To Mr. and Mrs. Warner one child has been born, Aurora Elnora.

Mr. Warner is a member of the Lutheran church. During the Spanish-American War, in 1898, he enlisted in Company B, Fifteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in which he remained nine months. He did not get to the front, spending the time at Ft. Snelling, near Minneapolis; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Augusta, Georgia.

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### ARTHUR J. FLAIG.

Arthur J. Flaig, clerk of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, and one of the best-known and most progressive young farmers in that part of the county, who, in partnership with his younger brother, Oliver Flaig, is operating the old Flaig home farm in Germantown township, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Sanborn, not far from his present home, and has lived there all his life. He was born on October 28, 1887, son of Michael J. and Cecelia (Trach) Flaig, early settlers in that community, who are now living retired at Mankato.

Michael J. Flaig was born in the state of Wisconsin on March 23, 1861, son of Michael and Helen Flaig, a native of Ireland, the father a native of Germany, who settled in Wisconsin in an early day and there the elder Michael Flaig was engaged as a blacksmith until the early seventies, when he came with his family to Minnesota, settling in Redwood county. He homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in the Sanborn vicinity and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1909. His wife had died some years before that date. They were the parents of ten children, Michael J., Walter, who died in infancy; Charles, George, Richard, William, Edward, Margaret, Helen and Marie. Michael J. Flaig was about sixteen years old when he came to Minnesota with his parents and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in the vicinity of Sanborn. A year or two after his marriage he secured one hundred and twenty acres of school land across the line in Germantown township, Cottonwood county, and there established his home, soon becoming recognized as one of the substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. He planted a three-acre grove on his place, improved the place and gradually enlarged his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and fifty acres, on which he made his home until 1912, when he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Mankato, where they are now living. To them five sons were born, of whom Arthur J. is the eldest, the others being Walter, who died

in infancy; Oliver, born on July 20, 1892, who is now, in partnership with his brother, Arthur J., operating the old home farm; Roy, who is with his parents in Mankato, and Harold, who also is with his parents and who is in school at Mankato.

Arthur J. Flaig grew up on the home farm in Germantown township, receiving his schooling in the local schools of that township, and was a valued assistant to his father in the work of developing the home place and after his marriage in 1909 continued to make his home there. When his parents moved to Mankato in 1912 he and his wife continued to occupy the old home and are still living there. Mr. Flaig and his brother, Oliver, farming the place, a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres belonging to their father. They are up-to-date young farmers and are doing well. Arthur J. Flaig has given considerable attention to local public affairs and is now serving as township clerk. He also for some time served as justice of the peace. He is a stockholder in the State Bank at Sanborn and in the Farmers Elevator Company at that place and in other ways is interested in the general business and civic life of the community.

On November 24, 1909, Arthur J. Flaig was united in marriage to Fannie Cottingham, who was born in Winona county, this state, daughter of William and Charlotte Cottingham, the latter of whom is now deceased, the former making his home at Springfield, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Flaig take a proper interest in the general social affairs of the community and are willing supporters of all movements for the advancement of the common interest thereabout. Mr. Flaig is a Mason, a member of Fides Lodge No. 246, at Sanborn, and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, affiliated with Magnolia Chapter No. 167, at that same place, Mr. Flaig being tyler of the lodge and a sentinel in the chapter.

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#### H. R. PIETZ.

H. R. Pietz, for years an energetic member of the board of commissioners of Cottonwood county and a well-known and progressive farmer of Rose Hill township, proprietor of a fine farm in the Westbrook neighborhood, where he has lived since 1891, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in Waushara county, that state, October 26, 1860, son of E. W. and Louisa (Frederick) Pietz, both natives of Prussia, who became prosperous pioneers of Wisconsin.



E. W. Pietz was married in his native land and shortly afterward came to the United States to make a home for himself and wife in the New World. He came West and settled in Wisconsin, homesteading a tract of land in Waushara county, in Bloomfield township, where he made ready for the coming of his wife, who joined him two years later. When the Civil War broke out E. W. Pietz enlisted in one of the Wisconsin regiments and served until mustered out at the close of the war. In 1872 he disposed of his farm in Waushara county and moved into Jackson county, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and there he spent the remainder of his life. His widow survived him some years and her death occurred at Tracy, in Lyon county, this state. Both are buried at Delafield, Minnesota. They were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom H. R. was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Henrietta (deceased), Emilia (deceased), Othelia, Alvina, Paulina, Mollie, William, Ernest (deceased) and Ludwig.

As a youth, H. R. Pietz spent some time in Blue Earth county, this state, obtaining a part of his schooling in the German parochial schools there, and completing the same in the public schools of his home county in Wisconsin. Reared on a farm, he early began farming on his own account and after his marriage in 1881 established his home on a farm in Jackson county, this state, where he remained for ten years, or until his removal to Cottonwood county in 1891. In April of that year he took possession of his present fine farm of one-half section of land in Rose Hill township and he has ever since made his home there, where he and his family are pleasantly situated. Though owning but three hundred and twenty acres, Mr. Pietz has made a practice of renting other lands and for years has farmed about eight hundred acres of land in his home township, long having been regarded as one of the most progressive farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred stock, and his Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep display evidences of his skill in that connection. Mr. Pietz has for years given his attention to local political affairs and has contributed largely of his time and energies to the public service. During his residence in Jackson county he served as township supervisor and during his residence in Cottonwood county has for eighteen consecutive years served as treasurer of his school district, while for fifteen consecutive years he served as assessor of Rose Hill township. In 1910 Mr. Pietz was elected county commissioner from



his district and upon the completion of his first term of service in that office was re-elected and is still serving in that important and responsible capacity.

On July 25, 1881, in Jackson county, this state, H. R. Pietz was united in marriage to Philipina Erbes, who was born in Ashford, Wisconsin, daughter of George and Philipina (Bate) Erbes, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States about 1855 and located in Wisconsin. During the Civil War George Erbes enlisted for service in a Wisconsin regiment of infantry and died during the period of that service. In the fall of 1871 his widow and children came to Minnesota and homesteaded a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Weiner township, Jackson county, where Mrs. Erbes spent the remainder of her life. She was the mother of six children, of whom Mrs. Pietz was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Margaret, one who died in infancy, William, George and Elizabeth, who were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pietz fourteen children have been born: Pauline, Charlotte, Henry, Rudolph, Edward, Elizabeth, Gertrude, Pearl, Melvin, Leroy, Alfred, Edna, Gladys and Grace, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Pietz are members of the Lutheran church and give proper attention to all local good works, the family being among the leaders in the social and cultural affairs of their home neighborhood. Mr. Pietz is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Degree of Honor, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### HENRY D. PETERS.

Henry D. Peters, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers in Dale township, proprietor of the "Springvale Stock Farm" situated on rural route No. 2, out of Windom; treasurer of Dale township, president of the Delft Creamery Association, president of the Farmers Elevator Company at Carson, a member of the board of directors of the Delft Rural Telephone Company and otherwise interested in the general affairs of his home community, is a native of Russia, though he has been a resident of this part of Minnesota since he was three years old and therefore regards himself as much a real Minnesotan as though native born in the Northwest. He was born in the south of Russia, March 24, 1873, son of Dietrich and Maria (Votb) Peters, farming people, who came to the United States with their family in 1876 and proceeded directly to this part of Minnesota,





HENRY D. PETERS AND FAMILY.



RESIDENCE AND BARN OF HENRY D. PETERS.





settling in Carson township, Cottonwood county, where they established their home, being among the pioneers of that section.

Upon settling in Cottonwood county, Dietrich Peters bought forty acres of wild land in Carson township, made and burned a kiln of bricks from the clay on that land and erected a substantial brick house, which he covered with a thatch of hay, and in that house he lived many years. That early brick house is still standing and is still in use, but it has long ago been covered with a shingle roof. Dietrich Peters was a good farmer and prospered in his operations. He gradually enlarged his land holdings and for years farmed a place of two hundred acres. In 1913 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Mountain Lake, where his death occurred on March 18, 1916, he then being seventy years of age. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: D. D., who owns the farm adjoining that of his brother, Henry D.; George, a farmer living northeast of Delft; Helen, who married George D. Ewert, a farmer living in Kansas; John, who died at the age of six years; Abraham, who lives on the old home farm in Carson township, and Mary, who married P. P. Peters and is living on a farm in Nebraska.

Henry D. Peters was about three years old when his parents came to this country in 1876 and he was reared on the pioneer farm in Carson township, receiving his education in the public schools of that township, and remained at home until after his marriage in the fall of 1895. He then bought eighty acres in section 36, Dale township, a tract of wild prairie land, and there established his home. His first home was a frame house, eighteen by twenty-eight, in which he lived until he erected his present modern two-story dwelling in 1911. Upon beginning his farming operations he built a small barn, but in 1909 erected his present commodious barn, thirty-six by seventy-two feet, and at the same time erected the first silo constructed in that part of the county, a structure sixteen feet in diameter by thirty feet in length. In 1913 he erected another silo, fourteen by thirty. He owns his own filling rig and has a fifteen-horse-power gasoline engine with which to operate the same and to propel other labor-saving machinery about the barn. Mr. Peters owns a fine, large automobile and his farming operations are carried on in accordance with the latest methods in modern agriculture. He has added to his holdings since beginning farming on his own account and is now the owner of a quarter of a section surrounding his home and a farm of eighty acres in Carson township. He early went in somewhat heavily for stock raising and his home place in Dale township

is called "Springvale Stock Farm." He has a well-equipped dairy and a fine herd of Holsteins. Mr. Peters is an "independent" voter and long has given careful thought to local political affairs. He has been treasurer of Dale township since 1912. He has ever been active in promoting local business enterprises and is the president of the Farmers Elevator Company at Carson; president of the Delft Creamery Association and a member of the board of directors of the Delft Rural Telephone Company, to the affairs of all of which organizations he gives his most intelligent attention.

It was on November 3, 1895, that Henry D. Peters was united in marriage to Aganetha Goertzen and to this union ten children have been born, Aganetha, who died at the age of eight days; Mary, who died at the age of eight years; Henry, David, Dietrich, Lena, Isaac (who died at the age of three weeks), Justina, Jacob and Anna.

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#### THORSTEN P. LAINGEN.

One of the prominent families that have come to Watonwan county from Norway and here found good opportunities and a comfortable homes and at the same time benefited the locality through their splendid citizenship is the Laingens, a well known representative of which family is Thorsten P. Laingen, who, together with his son, Palmer, has the management of the bank at Odin.

Mr. Laingen was born in Norway, August 20, 1862, and is a son of Paul and Elsie (Andvord) Laingen, both natives of Lom, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, where they grew up and were married. They came to America in 1870, locating on a homestead five miles south of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, on eighty acres, on which they lived until 1876, when they sold out and bought one hundred and sixty acres, about one mile south of the original place. There the death of the mother occurred in 1893. The father remained with his son Knudt and his family there until 1900, when Knudt died. In 1901 they sold the farm and bought another two miles west of Odin in Watonwan county, where the father died February 18, 1909, at seventy-eight years old. To these parents four children were born, namely: Lars, Knudt, T. P., and Thora. This family always affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Thorsten P. Laingen grew up on the home farm. He was eight years old when his parents brought him to America. He received a limited edu-

cation in the public schools, which was held a week at a time in the different sod houses of the first settlers in this locality. In 1886 he was united in marriage to Julia Levenson. He at once rented eighty acres in Martin county. He had a team which his uncle at Crystal Lake had given him in payment for two years work on his farm. When Thorsten P. left home his father gave him two cows. His wife had also been given a cow by her parents. The first summer he met with a severe blow through the death of one of his horses. In fact, he found it hard sledding the first few years. The second year he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and soon thereafter bought eighty acres of school land for which he paid seven dollars and fifty cents per acre. He remained on the one hundred and sixty acres four years, during which time he also worked his eighty, on which he built a home at the end of four years, and after living in it three weeks was burned out. By the assistance of friends and neighbors he soon rebuilt and lived there twelve years, and although bad luck continued to assail him, a number of good horses dying, among other things, he prospered and added to his holdings until he had accumulated two hundred acres. In 1902 he purchased the William Olson farm of two hundred acres, which joins the village of Odin on the west and south, and the following year sold the old farm and removed to it, remaining there from 1903 to 1911, when he moved into the village of Odin and, together with his son Palmer, took charge of the Odin State Bank. In 1913 he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Martin county for which he paid seventy-one dollars per acre, which he sold a few weeks later for eighty dollars per acre, then purchased the old Martin Agge farm in Odin township, Watonwan county, which place consists of two hundred and forty acres, for which he paid eighty-four dollars per acre, and this place he still owns, also retains the old Olson farm at Odin. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the substantial men of his town and county.

He was chairman of Odin township one term. He was president of the village council one year. He has been made executor for various estates, among them being the estates of Elling Olsen, John Halvorsen, Fletcher Sturdevant and Andrew Gilbertson. He has also been appointed guardian for various children. These facts indicate that he is held in high esteem by his neighbors, who place implicit confidence both in his ability and integrity. He has also handled much real estate for the local bank.

The parents of Mrs. Laingen were Herbrand and Carrie (Lande) Levenson, natives of Norway, from which country they came to Wisconsin with their parents when young and were married in that state, after which they



moved to Moore county, Minnesota. About 1875 they moved to Jackson county, this state, where they spent the rest of their lives.

To Mr. and Mrs. Laingen eight children have been born and those now living are, Palmer T., Elma, Hulda, Carl and Melvin.

Palmer T. Laingen was born in Martin county, Minnesota, near the line between that county and Watonwan, July 24, 1888. He received his education in the public schools, then took a short commercial course in Mankato Commercial College. He spent his boyhood on the farm with his parents and assisted with the general work. He left the farm in April, 1909, to become assistant cashier of the bank at Odin, remaining in that position about one and one-half years, when he became cashier, which position he still holds, giving eminent satisfaction to the stockholders and the patrons of the bank. He is unmarried. He is now village treasurer. He belongs to the Norwegian United Lutheran church.

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#### FRED C. MESSENBRINK.

Fred C. Messenbrink, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Amo township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres situated on rural route No. 5, out of Windom, is a native of Iowa, born on a farm in Jackson county, that state, April 15, 1872, son of Louis and Sophia (Harms) Messenbrink, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Jackson county, Iowa, the former of whom is now living comfortably retired at Charter Oak, Iowa.

Louis Messenbrink was born in the province of Hanover. His father died in his native land and his mother and her children came to the United States in 1855, settling in Illinois. When the Civil War broke out, Louis Messenbrink enlisted for service in Company I, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, attached to General Hooker's brigade. At the close of the war he settled in Jackson county, Iowa, where he presently married Sophia Harms, daughter of one of the pioneer families of that county, and there lived for about five years, at the end of which time he moved to Crawford county, same state, where he ever since has made his home. Mr. Messenbrink homesteaded a tract of land in that county upon his arrival there, being one of the first settlers in that part of the county in which he located and when the township was organized he was given the privilege of naming the

same, in honor of his native land, giving it the name of Hanover township, which name the township still bears. Mr. Messenbrink owns a section of fine land there, but for years has lived retired from the active labors of the farm, having a pleasant home in Charter Oak, that county, where he is largely interested in the Charter Oak National Bank. His wife died many years ago on the homestead farm in Crawford county, leaving six children, Rosenna, Henry, Fred C., Mary, Peter (deceased), and Emma. Louis Messenbrink then married Sophia Krohn, to which union one daughter was born, Sophia. Mr. Messenbrink is a member of the German Lutheran church and is a thirty-second degree Mason, taking a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

Fred C. Messenbrink was but an infant when his parents moved from Jackson county to Crawford county, Iowa, and he grew to manhood on the pioneer homestead farm in the latter county. He obtained his schooling in the parochial schools at Denison, county seat of his home county, and after awhile became a traveling salesman for a commercial house, being thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he engaged in the hotel business and for three years conducted a hotel at Denison. He then for seven years was engaged in the saloon business at Boyer, in that same county, and then for two or three years conducted a pool and billiard hall in that same town, after which he moved to Dickinson county, Iowa, and was there engaged in farming for a couple of years, at the end of which time, in 1913, he came to Minnesota and settled on the farm on which he is now living in Amo township, Cottonwood county, where he and his family are pleasantly situated. Mr. Messenbrink is the owner of one-half of a section in Amo township and has a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm, he being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He takes an earnest interest in local affairs and is recognized as one of the public-spirited citizens of Cottonwood county. He is a member of the German-American Liberal Association. During his residence in Denison, Iowa, Mr. Messenbrink served for some time as town clerk and had a valuable experience in the public service.

In 1901, in Crawford county, Iowa, Fred C. Messenbrink was united in marriage to Bertha Jahn, who was born in that county, daughter of Carl and Bertha (Krause) Jahn, natives of Germany, who came to this country in the days of their youth with their respective parents, the two families settling in Chicago. After their marriage, Carl Jahn and his wife remained in Chicago for three years, after which they moved to Crawford county,

Iowa, where they have lived ever since, now living retired at Charter Oak. To them eleven children were born, of whom Mrs. Messenbrink was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Emilia, Louisa, Carl, Ida, Anna, Augusta, Otto, Wilhelmina, Matilda and Bernhard. Carl Jahn and his wife are earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. To Mr. and Mrs. Messenbrink eight children have been born, George, Alfred, Arthur, Julius, Levi, Blanche, Gladys and Walter, all of whom are living.

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### KNUTE NATTERSTAD.

Knute Natterstad, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Cottonwood county, who is the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in the vicinity of Storden, in Storden township, is a native of Norway, born on October 12, 1876, son of Tommaes and Martha (Hjalmeland) Natterstad, natives of that country and the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being Belle, Johannes, G. T. and Mary. Tommaes Natterstad is a farmer and is still living in his native land.

Knute Natterstad was reared on a farm and received his schooling in the public schools of his native land. When he was twenty-two years of age, in 1898, he came to the United States and proceeded directly to Minnesota, locating at Windom, where his elder brother, G. T. Natterstad, had been located for some time, and there he remained until 1901, when he went to Storden township, where he has been located ever since. At the time of his marriage in 1905 he bought a farm of eighty acres in section 19 of that township and there established his home. Mr. Natterstad has been successful in his farming operations and has been able to add to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres, well kept and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well with both cattle and hogs. He is a Republican and has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs ever since coming to Minnesota, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1905 Knute Natterstad was united in marriage to Minnie Tolber-son and to this union four children have been born: Mattie, Melvin, Lenora and Venetta. Mr. and Mrs. Natterstad are earnest members of the Lutheran church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general good works of their community.



## OLE REINERT.

Ole Reinert, one of the pioneer residents of this section of Minnesota, was born in Lom Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, on May 7, 1838, a son of Ole R. and Ingre Staurustdgaard, both natives of Norway. Mr. Reinert spent the first fifteen years of his life at home, after which he was employed in various ways, and while still in Norway, learned the tailor trade. He received only a limited education, the average school term being but three months of the year, and the teacher would go from one farm to another, teaching one day to a week at each place. In 1859 he started for America. A trip across the ocean at that time was an undertaking, nothing but sail-ships being employed. After five weeks and two days, they arrived at Quebec, Canada, and were inspected by a doctor, who found all in a healthy condition. Mr. Reinert then proceeded on his journey, but stopped off at Madison, Dane county, Wisconsin, where he resided for five years. From there he went to California, and, after one year's stay there, purchased a small farm, where he made his home for four years, after which he returned to Wisconsin.

In 1869 Mr. Reinert started for Minnesota, going to Goodhue county, where he spent one year. From there he came to Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, took a timber claim in 1870 and built a home. Through this section there was nothing but sod shacks and sod cellars, which were the only safe shelter from the terrible prairie fires that frequently swept the country. In 1873 the grasshoppers made their appearance, and during four years in succession, they took clean down to the ground what little crops there were. The next hardships were the blizzards, when people were snowed in for three days at a time, so that they did not see daylight, nor could they get to the barns to feed their stock. The air was so thick with snow and dirt, driven by the strong wind, that a person could not see his hand two feet away. Contrast the meager crops of those days with the bountiful harvests of today. Forty years ago there was nothing but oxen, and a distance of forty miles to mill to get wheat ground into flour was nothing unusual; and furthermore, there were no roads nor bridges, so a trip of this kind with oxen was indeed no pleasure trip. Today the average farmer drives an automobile, with which he accomplishes much at a minimum loss of time. Mr. Reinert speaks of one of these trips to mill in particular, when four of his neighbors, Thorsten Kjestad, Paul Daingen, Peter Hunstad and Halvor Byre, went to Winnebago mill. As the roads were almost



impassable, it took about a week to make the trip. They were obliged to unload several times and carry the sacks of grain across to where the wagon would carry the load. On their return, when within sight of their homes, they came to a creek which it was impossible to cross on account of high water, so they were obliged to camp out. Mr. Reinert was one of the leaders of the community at that time, and carries the honor of presenting the first road petition in Mountain Lake township.

In 1880 Mr. Reinert moved to Odin township, Cottonwood county, where he farmed a quarter section of land for a number of years. Later he sold that and bought an eighty-acre farm, where he resided until 1915, when he moved to the village of Odin.

In 1873 Ole Reinert was married to Lena Odden, daughter of Errick Odden and wife, and to this union have been born seven children, William, Torger, Inga, Anna, Charles, Edward and Richard, the last named being deceased.

Mr. Reinert has always been a member of the St. Olaf Norwegian Lutheran church. The first church of this denomination in this community was situated on the southeast quarter of section 20, Odin township, and was scarcely completed when a tornado swept it out of existence.

Mr. Reinert has always been a booster for his community and a fighter for all kinds of improvements. One element he has always fought is the liquor business. He has held various minor township offices.

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### WILLIAM W. HUNTER.

William W. Hunter, assessor of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, justice of the peace, road overseer for his home district, vice-president of the Cottonwood County Fair Association, vice-president of the Old Settlers Association of that same county and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Springfield township, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on rural route No. 3, out of Windom, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in LaCrosse county, that state, April 1, 1861, son of Wesley W. and Elizabeth (Williams) Hunter, the former of whom was born in Vermont and the latter in the state of New York.

Wesley W. Hunter grew to manhood in his native state and there became a farmer. He remained there until about 1854, when he came West and settled in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, where he homesteaded a



WILLIAM W. HUNTER AND FAMILY.



farm and was engaged in farming until he enlisted for service in the Union army in 1863 and went to the front as a member of one of the Wisconsin regiments. In one of the engagements in which his regiment took part he was captured by the enemy and was confined in the Confederate prison pen at Andersonville, where he shortly afterward died, a victim of the privations to which the prisoners in that stockade were subjected. He left a widow and three children, Ira E., William M. and Etta, of which family the subject of this sketch is the only member now living in Cottonwood county. The widow Hunter married again and in 1871 came with her husband and her children to Minnesota, settling in Cottonwood county, where she spent the rest of her life.

William W. Hunter was about ten years old when he came to Minnesota with his mother and stepfather in 1871 and he consequently may very properly be regarded as one of the real pioneers of this section of the state. He had been going to school in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, and upon coming out here attended a couple of terms of pioneer school in Cottonwood county, after which he began work as a farm hand and became a very competent farmer. In 1883 he homesteaded the quarter of a section of land on which he is now living and began the development of the same. After his marriage he established his home on that homestead farm and has ever since lived there, he and his family being very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Hunter has spent about five thousand dollars in improving his place and has a model farm. He has for years given close attention to local civic affairs and is now assessor of his home township, road overseer and justice of the peace. He also has been active in the work of promoting the agricultural interests of his home county and is vice-president of the Cottonwood County Fair Association, in the affairs of which organization he for years has taken a warm interest. As one of the real pioneers of Cottonwood county, Mr. Hunter has given much attention to the work and the meetings of the Old Settlers Association and is now vice-president of that body. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Windom and is warmly interested in the affairs of that organization.

It was in 1887 that William W. Hunter was united in marriage to Ella D. Peterson, who was born in Blue Earth county, this state, daughter of Elias and Irene Peterson, natives of the state of Vermont, and to this union five children have been born, Earl V., born on May 28, 1889; Wesley E., August 11, 1896; Sylvia Esther, April 21, 1898; William and George,



October 12, 1891, all of whom are living save the latter. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter give proper attention to local good works and have ever displayed their interest in movements having to do with the promotion of the common welfare hereabout.

Earl V. Hunter married Lena Snyder and lives in Cottonwood county. They have one child, named Vernard E., born on February 3, 1915. All other children are single.

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### AUGUST QUADE.

No biographical history of Cottonwood county would be complete without reference to the life and services to the community at large of the late August Quade, a pioneer of that county and for many years one of the most substantial and influential farmers of Storden township and one of the largest landowners in the county. August Quade was a native of Germany, born on August 10, 1852, son of Christian and Julia (Biegel) Quade, natives of that country, whose last days were spent in the home of their son in Cottonwood county, they having come to Minnesota in their old age. Christian Quade and wife were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were three of these children, of whom August was the first-born, the others being Christian and Frederick. The elder, Christian, died; his widow is still living at Jeffers, aged eighty-two years.

August Quade received his schooling in his native land and at the age of sixteen years, in 1868, came to the United States, locating in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, where he remained about two years, at the end of which time he started for the Pacific coast and was for some years engaged in prospecting in the West, particularly in Washington and Oregon. In 1877 he came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county, where he spent the rest of his life. Upon determining to locate here, Mr. Quade homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Storden township and pre-empted an adjoining "eighty." He diligently set about improving and developing the same and upon his marriage five or six years later established his home there and continued living there the rest of his life. Mr. Quade was a man of much energy, of large public spirit and of indefatigable industry and prospered from the start of his agricultural operations. He built up a fine place on his homestead tract and gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of fine land and was regarded as one of

the most substantial citizens of Cottonwood county. In addition to his extensive general farming, he also engaged extensively in stock raising and did very well.

Mr. Quade was a Democrat and from the beginning of his residence took an active part in local political affairs, having been looked upon as one of the leaders of his party in the central and western parts of the county. For many years he served as treasurer of Storden township; for years was a member of the school board, in which capacity he did much to advance the cause of education in his district; while as road supervisor he performed a valuable service to the community in the way of highway improvement. He was equally active in church work and for years was one of the trustees of the German Lutheran church, of which he and his wife were devoted members and in the faith of which their children were reared.

On April 3, 1883, August Quade was united in marriage to Pauline Conrad, who also was born in Germany, daughter of Johann M. and Anna J. (Wendland) Conrad, pioneers of this part of Minnesota, and to that union seventeen children were born, twelve of whom are living, as follow: Ida T., who married H. F. Conrad; Carl F., who married Ella Halter, and William A. F., Amelia A., Herman R., Marie P. M., Gustav M., Walter T., Ella L., John S., Amanda M. and Clara P. August Quade died at his home in Storden township on July 24, 1915, leaving a good memory, which long will be cherished in that community. His widow is still living there and continues to take an active interest in the general management of the large farm. She is earnest in good works, for years one of the leaders in the church in that neighborhood, and takes a warm interest in all proper movements designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### WILLIAM SCHULTE.

The subject of this sketch is of German ancestry, his father and mother were both natives of that country. William Schulte, his father, came to America when he was a young man, landing in New York. He had learned of the opportunities for young men afforded by the cheap lands in the Northwest and he decided to go there. He found his way to Stearns county, Minnesota, and there he located on a farm and established his home, and there he lived the rest of his life. After coming to this country he married Helen Knese, a native of his own country. The children born to this union

were: Mary, Bernhardt, Andrew, William, Theodore, Henry, John and Catherine.

William Schulte was born at Richmond, Stearns county, Minnesota, September 28, 1884. He received his early education in the public schools of Stearns county, Minnesota. Later he attended St. John's College for three years and took a commercial course. After leaving college he started a mill at Cold Springs, Minnesota, and operated this for three years. For the last thirteen years he has been engaged in buying grain. In June, 1913, he came to Darfur and took a position as manager of the Farmers' Elevator, and has been thus engaged since.

In 1910 Mr. Schulte was united in marriage with Albertine Vernica, daughter of Nicholas Hemmesch, of Cold Springs, Minnesota. To this union two children have been born, Donald W. N. and Rainer A. Mr. Schulte is a member of the Catholic church, and an independent in politics.

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#### EDWARD C. POTTER.

Edward C. Potter, one of the most substantial young farmers of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, owner of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Jeffers, a member of the board of supervisors of his home township and in other ways identified with the development of that part of the county, is a native son of Cottonwood county and has lived in the vicinity of his present home all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Amboy township, October 16, 1878, son of the Hon. William A. Potter, an honored veteran of the Civil War, a former representative from this district in the lower house of the Minnesota General Assembly, one of the early settlers of Cottonwood county and for years actively interested in the political life of this section of the state, who is now living retired in the village of Jeffers, not far from the old home farm in Amboy township, where he became a homesteader in the spring of 1878 and where he made his home until his retirement and removal to Jeffers. Presented elsewhere in this volume there is a biographical sketch of the Hon. William A. Potter, giving the genealogy of the family and setting out in detail the history of that old soldier, homesteader and statesman, to which the reader is referred.

Edward C. Potter was reared on the paternal homestead in Amboy township, receiving his schooling in the district school in that neighborhood and proving, even from boyhood, a valuable assistant to his father in develop-



ing the home place. In 1901 he started farming on his own account and was married in 1902. From the first his farming operations prospered and in 1909 he bought the farm on which he now lives, being thus the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well-improved and profitably cultivated land. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Potter has given considerable attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs and has done very well, long having been recognized as one of the most progressive farmers in that part of the county. He is a Republican and has given close attention to local civic affairs, and has been a member of the board of supervisors of Amboy township since 1913.

On October 22, 1902, Edward C. Potter was united in marriage to Tillie Jenson, daughter of Peter Jenson, of Storden, and to this union three children have been born, Ethel, Marril and Clyde. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have a pleasant home and take a proper interest in the social and cultural activities of their home neighborhood, active in all local good works.

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### JACOB H. WALL.

Another German farmer who has made good in Minnesota is Jacob H. Wall, of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, where he has been a resident for over a quarter of a century and has by thrift and economy become well-to-do. He was born in 1868, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Dick) Wall, natives of Germany and Russia, respectively. They spent their earlier lives in the old country, coming to America in 1875 and located near Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, Minnesota. He finally moved into the village of Mountain Lake, where he died, his wife having died on the farm. Two sons and five daughters were born to them.

Jacob H. Wall spent his boyhood on the farm and he received a common-school education. He has always followed farming for a livelihood. He was seven years old when his parents brought him to the United States. He has lived on his present farm since 1891. He has a valuable farm of four hundred and forty acres on which he has erected modern and substantial buildings and made many other improvements, and he carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale.

Mr. Wall was married in 1890, to Agetha Buhler, a daughter of Abram Buhler, a native of Russia, and to this union the following children have been born: Lena, Henry, Abram, Justina and Anna.



Mr. Wall is a member of the Mennonite church. He has taken considerable interest in local public affairs, and has been township assessor for a period of seventeen years and is township clerk at the present time.

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### CHARLES ANDERS GUSTAFSON.

Charles Anders Gustafson, a progressive farmer of Dale township, Cottonwood county, one of the largest landowners in that part of the county, with a pleasant home on rural route No. 5, out of Windom, chairman of his district school board and a director in the Farmers Elevator Company at Windom, the Carson Farmers Elevator Company, the Northwestern Telephone Company and the Farmers State Bank of Windom, is a native of Sweden, but has lived in the United States since he was twenty years of age and has been a resident of Minnesota since he was twenty-five. He was born on March 15, 1867, son of Gustav and Matilda (Peterson) Gustafson, both of whom died in their native land and who were the parents of seven children, of whom Charles A. was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Sophia, wife of Mr. Wessling, a farmer, living near Muskegon, Michigan; Amanda, who lives in Sweden; Amil, who came to America and is now a well-known farmer in Dale township, Cottonwood county; Axel, who is associated with his brother, Amil, in the latter's farming operations; Freda, wife of Oscar Johnson, a Pullman carpenter at Chicago, and Oscar, who remained in Sweden.

Charles A. Gustafson was reared on a farm in his native land and received his education in the government schools. When twenty years of age, in 1887, he settled at Gorrie, Iowa, near which place he was for four years engaged as a farm laborer. He then came to Minnesota, arriving at Windom in 1891. Shortly thereafter he bought eighty acres of wild land in section 33, Dale township, and developed the same. Upon his marriage in 1894 he rented the John F. Gustafson farm and made his home there for three years, at the end of which time he traded his original tract of eighty acres for another "eighty" of wild land in section 29 of that same township and there built a house and established his home. Mr. Gustafson has been a very successful farmer. Almost immediately after taking possession of the tract on which he established his home, he bought an adjoining "eighty" and two years later bought a quarter of a section west of that, later buying one hundred and twenty acres in section 30 and still later buying another quarter section in section 28, thus being the owner of six hundred acres of

land in Dale township, all of which he is farming, besides renting and cultivating other lands in that vicinity. He keeps twenty-five head of horses and also raises annually from seventy-five to one hundred head of cattle. His farm is well improved, a good barn and other up-to-date farm buildings affording him every convenience in his operations. One of the attractive features of the home farm is a grove of about three acres, which Mr. Gustafson planted upon taking possession of the same. He and his family have a pleasant home and are comfortably situated. Mr. Gustafson drives a fine automobile and takes an active interest in the general business affairs of the community. He is an "independent" Democrat and is now serving his second term as chairman of the school board of district No. 54. He is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Windom and also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Windom, the Carson Farmers Elevator Company and the Northwestern Telephone Company, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

It was on November 2, 1894, that Charles A. Gustafson was united in marriage to Augusta Gustafson and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Sigurd Joseph, born on August 17, 1895; Clarence Conrad, September 28, 1896; Walter, February 19, 1898; Ethel Elvera, April 8, 1900, now attending school at Windom; Hildur, April 21, 1902; Ruth, July 24, 1903, and Myrtle, March 27, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson are members of the Free Mission Swedish church at Windom and their children have been reared in that faith. The Gustafsons take a proper interest in neighborhood good works and are ever helpful in promoting movements designed to advance the general welfare hereabout.

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#### RICHARD ALBRECHT.

Richard Albrecht, a progressive young farmer of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, who is the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in that township, is a native of Germany, but has lived in Minnesota since his early childhood, he having been but an infant when his parents came over here. He was born on January 18, 1888, son of August and Wilhelmina (Thram) Albrecht, natives of Germany, who came to America in 1889, proceeding directly to Minnesota and settling on a farm in Germantown township, Cottonwood county, where they are still living, having for years been among the best-known and most influential residents of that community. August Albrecht and his wife are members of the

German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom Richard was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Augusta, Herman, Otto, Mary, Emma, Ernest and Minnie.

Richard Albrecht was little more than a year old when his parents came to Minnesota and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Germantown township. He received his education in the public schools of that township and from the days of his boyhood was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home place. When he reached manhood's estate he began farming on his own account and has been very successful, now being the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Germantown township, the same being in an excellent state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Albrecht has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well.

In 1915 Richard Albrecht was united in marriage to Olga Steve, daughter of Henry Steve. Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in all local good works, being willing promoters of such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare. They have a pleasant home and take an earnest part in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. Mr. Albrecht is a Republican in his political views, ever taking a proper interest in local governmental affairs.

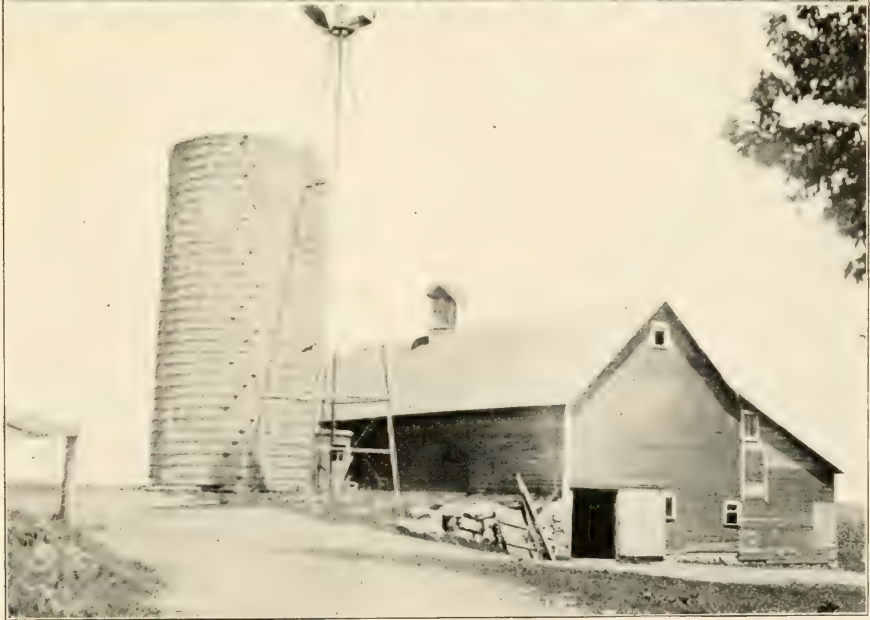
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#### ALVIN RAND.

Alvin Rand, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers in Cottonwood county, proprietor of beautiful "Valley Dale Stock Farm," a fine place of two hundred and forty acres in section 35, Dale township, situated on rural route No. 5, out of Windom, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a homestead farm in Faribault county, February 6, 1871, son of John and Ada Rand, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Vermont, who were married in Wisconsin, later coming to this state, where their last days were spent, influential and substantial residents of Cottonwood county.

John Rand was reared on a farm in New York and when a young man came into the Northwest, settling in Wisconsin, where he married. After a few years spent there he came to Minnesota and homesteaded a tract





RESIDENCE AND BARN OF ALVIN RAND.





of forty acres in Faribault county, at the same time buying a quarter of a section of wild land adjoining. He improved that place and made his home there until 1884, when he sold the same to advantage and moved to Arkansas, but after farming for one season in that state, returned to Minnesota and spent a year in Dodge county, after which he returned to Nebraska and for two years was engaged in farming in the neighborhood of Norfolk, that state. He then moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he lived for about nine months, at the end of which time he returned to Minnesota and for four years lived on a rented farm in Rock county. He then moved up into Cottonwood county and bought a quarter of a section of wild land in Dale township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in February, 1908, he then being past sixty-six years of age, and hers, in September, 1909, she then being fifty-six years of age. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born.

Alvin Rand was about thirteen years old when his parents left the old homestead farm in Faribault county, where he was born and where he had received his early schooling. During their later moves he was a constant aid to his father in the work of the farm and became an excellent farmer. He was twenty-one years of age when the family finally located in Cottonwood county in the early nineties and he continued assisting his father on the farm until his marriage in 1897, after which he rented a farm of six hundred and forty acres and started farming on his own account. Shortly afterward he bought a quarter section of wild land in section 35, Dale township, and there he established his home and has continued to live there ever since. Mr. Rand has done well in his farming operations and now is the owner of two hundred and forty acres and has long been recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in his neighborhood. Upon taking possession of his place, Mr. Rand planted a large grove and has continually improved his farm until "Valley Dale Stock Farm" has come to be known as one of the most attractive places thereabout. He early built a nice two-story frame house, later erected a large bank barn, forty by sixty-four feet, and in 1914 erected a concrete-block silo. Upon beginning his farming operations, Mr. Rand engaged in the live stock business in a small way, and has gradually added to his herd until now he has a herd of forty-five purebred Shorthorn cattle and twenty head of horses. Mr. Rand is an "independent" Republican and has held the offices of township clerk and township supervisor. He is a stockholder in the Carson Farmers Elevator Company at Delft and in the Farmers Elevator Company at Windom. He

owns a livery barn and two residence properties in Mountain Lake and a couple of lots in Jeffers. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen and with the Royal Neighbors, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

Alvin Rand has been married twice. It was on February 26, 1897, that he was united in marriage to Bertha Miller. To that union six children were born, Effie, who married Archie Carr and now lives at Lake City, Iowa; Ada, Edith, Sadie, Pearl and Alice, all of whom are living save Pearl. The mother of these children died on February 23, 1905, and on July 15, 1908, Mr. Rand married Mrs. Otto Hotzler. The Rands have a very pleasant home and take an earnest interest in the general social activities of their neighborhood, contributing to all movements designed to advance the general welfare thereabout.

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### GUNDER JOHNSON.

No history of Cottonwood county would be complete without fitting mention of the venerable Gunder Johnson, an honored veteran of the Civil War and the first settler of Highwater township, who has been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this part of the state within the past generation and who is still living, hale and hearty, at the age of eighty-two, on the farm in Highwater township, where he homesteaded in 1869.

Gunder Johnson is a native of Norway, born on October 12, 1833, son of Ole and Hedwick (Gunder) Johnson, and grew to manhood in his native country, being twenty-two years of age when the family came to this country in 1855. Ole Johnson located with his family in Portage county, Wisconsin, established his home on a homestead farm there and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1872. He and his wife were the parents of three children, of whom Gunder was the last-born, the others being Mary and John. Upon settling in Portage county, Gunder Johnson was occupied with his father in the work of developing the homestead farm and was thus engaged until 1863, in which year he enlisted in Company D, Fifth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War and served with that command until mustered out at the close of the war. Mr. Johnson saw much active service with his regiment, participating in the battles in the Wilderness, through the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Cherry

Creek, the battles around Petersburg and was present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, later participating in the Grand Review at Washington. Through all these battles and engagements he never was wounded, though on several occasions bullet holes in his hat attested the imminence of death.

Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Johnson returned to his home in Wisconsin. He married there in 1867 and in 1869 he and his wife drove through by "prairie schooner" to this part of Minnesota and settled in Highwater township, Cottonwood county, being the earliest arrivals in that township, Mr. Johnson later becoming an active factor in the organization of the township when it was organized to one of the civil units of the county. He homesteaded a quarter of a section of land there and has ever since made his home on the original homestead, thus being one of the oldest pioneers in point of continuous residence in this part of the state. When Mr. Johnson settled here, his nearest market was New Ulm, fifty-five miles away, for he then was on the frontier, indeed. He had a struggle before him for several years and during the years of the grasshopper scourge left his wife and children on the homestead and went over into Fillmore county to work in the harvest fields. After awhile, however, he began to see his way clear and presently became established on his farm, from the very first being looked upon as one of the leading farmers of that part of the county. Mr. Johnson is a Republican and ever since locating in Cottonwood county has taken a warm interest in civic affairs, though not being included in the office-seeking class. For many years he has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Despite the weight of his eighty-two years, Mr. Johnson still retains the erect carriage of his military days and is in vigorous physical condition, never having been ill for even a single day during all the years of his residence in Minnesota.

In 1867, back in Wisconsin, Gunder Johnson was united in marriage to Marie Staindahlen and to this union nine children have been born, Martin, Jacob, Peter, Aaron, Gilbert, Hannah, Gerina, Toline and Anna, all of whom are living in Minnesota save the first born, Martin Johnson, who is living in Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and were prominent figures in the work of organizing that church in this locality in early days and have ever been held as among the leaders in all good works hereabout, the influence of their lives in the formative period of this now well-established and prosperous community having been of far-reaching benefit hereabout.



## JAMES J. BILL.

James J. Bill, well-known and energetic dealer in real estate at Madelia, for many years one of the leading druggists of this part of the state and in all ways active in the promotion of the best interests of his home town and the community at large, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Mantorville, county seat of Dodge county, August 27, 1862, son of Dr. Dyar R. and Amanda M. (Vermillion) Bill, the former of whom was born at Greenfield, Vermont, and the latter at Syracuse, New York, who later became pioneer residents of Madelia, this state, where they spent their last days.

Dr. Dyar R. Bill, pioneer druggist at Madelia, was a graduate of an Eastern medical college, who, about 1852, came West and settled at Beaver Falls, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the drug business and continued thus engaged at that place about eight years, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota and located at Mantorville, where he was for some time engaged as a teacher in the schools of that place. While thus engaged he was elected county superintendent of schools of Dodge county and served in that capacity for two years, at the end of which time he moved to what then was known as Shelbyville and while there served for two years as superintendent of schools of Blue Earth county. Doctor Bill then moved to Garden City, upon the founding of that place, and opened the first drug store in the town, remaining there until the time of the founding of the town of Madelia, when, in 1870, he moved to the latter place and there opened a drug store, which remained in the control of his family for forty-three years.

Doctor Bill was a man of much force of character and took an active part in the work of promoting the interests of the new town of Madelia and of Watonwan county generally during the five years of his residence in Madelia. In 1872 he was elected clerk of court for Watonwan county and was serving in that capacity, with a promise of larger service and much continued usefulness in behalf of the new community, when his death occurred in 1875. He was a Republican and was one of the leaders of that party in this part of the state during the time he resided here. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, of whom James J. was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Frank D., Edward H., Frederick J., Kathryn and Emma F. Following the death of Doctor Bill his widow continued the drug store, with the assistance of her sons, under the firm name of A. M. Bill & Sons, which arrangement continued for about five

years, or until 1880, when Mrs. Bill sold her interest in the place to her sons, who continued the store under the name of Bill Brothers, until James J. Bill became sole owner in 1902, continuing as such until he later sold the store in order to give his undivided time to his rapidly growing real-estate interests.

James J. Bill was about eight years of age when his parents settled in the new town of Madelia and he consequently has been a witness to the growth of that thriving little city from the days of its very beginning. He received his schooling in the public schools of Madelia and early took his place in the drug store, under the careful direction of his father, and became a skilled druggist. After the formation of the firm of Bill Brothers he continued taking an active part in the management of the store's affairs and in 1902 bought his brothers' interests in the place and continued to conduct the store alone until he sold it in 1913, since which time he has given his whole attention to his extensive real-estate business, he being regarded as one of the leaders in the realty market in this part of the state. Mr. Bill gives his particular attention to the market in farm lands and has done very well. He is "independent" in his political views and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1891 James J. Bill was united in marriage to Grace G. Goddard, daughter of Charles A. Goddard, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Dyar G. Mr. and Mrs. Bill are attendants at the services of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Bill is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### MARTIN FRANZ.

Martin Franz, a well-known and up-to-date farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, is a native of southern Russia, born on March 4, 1859, son of John and Susanna Franz, who came to the United States in 1878, proceeding directly to Minnesota and coming to this part of the state, arriving at Mountain Lake on July 6, of that year. John Franz bought eighty acres of school land in that neighborhood and later added to his place by the purchase of an adjoining quarter of a sec-

tion. He died in 1886 and his widow is still living, being now in the eighty-fifth year of her age.

Martin Franz was about nineteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1878 and he has been a continuous resident of the Mountain Lake neighborhood ever since. He early began farming on his own account and is now the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Midway township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. He set out all the trees that at present adorn his farm and has erected a substantial class of buildings on the place, a comfortable residence and farm buildings in keeping with the same, as well as a capacious silo. Mr. Franz is a Republican and for many years has been a member of the school board, at the same time ever taking an active interest in the general civic affairs of his home township, and is regarded as one of the leaders in the common life of that community.

In 1883 Martin Franz was united in marriage to Susanna Balzer, daughter of Jacob Balzer, a sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union nine children have been born: John, Jacob, Susanna, Peter, Anna, Solomon, Elizabeth, Frieda and Ferdinand, all of whom are living. Of the children, John is in Canada in the ministry; Jacob is in Montana; Susanna and Anna are at present in California, doing mission work. Mr. and Mrs. Franz are members of the Mennonite church and for years have taken an active interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### FRANK BALZER.

Frank Balzer, veteran lumber dealer at Mountain Lake, one of the best-known business men in Cottonwood county, president of the North Star Telephone Company of Mountain Lake, vice-president of the First State Bank of that city, a director of the State Bank of Darfur and for more than twenty years treasurer of his home town, is a native of Germany, born on March 19, 1859, son of Jacob Balzer, who later became a prominent pioneer of this section of Minnesota and regarding whom further reference is made elsewhere in this volume of biography.

On July 1, 1877, the Balzer family landed in Philadelphia to settle on the new lands that then were being opened to settlement in this part of Minnesota, and in due time they were established on a homestead farm in the near vicinity of Mountain Lake. Jacob Balzer was a man of energy and



resourcefulness and it was not long until he became recognized as one of the substantial farmers and useful citizens of that part of the county. He and his wife were of the Mennonite faith and were among the leaders in the work of the considerable colony of Mennonites that then was being established in this part of Minnesota.

Frank Balzer was eighteen years old when he came to this country with his parents and the first few years of his residence here were spent in assisting in the development of the homestead farm. When he was twenty-three years of age he went to St. James, where he was engaged for a year as a grain buyer. He then, in 1883, married and a few years later, on April 5, 1886, engaged in the lumber business at Mountain Lake and has ever since been thus engaged, thus being one of the oldest lumber men, in point of continuous connection with that business, in this part of Minnesota. Mr. Balzer not only for years has been one of the leaders in the lumber trade hereabout, but he has been actively identified with other business interests in and about his home town and has long been regarded as one of the leading men of affairs. He is vice-president of the First State Bank of Mountain Lake, a director of the State Bank of Darfur and president of the North Star Telephone Company, of Mountain Lake. Mr. Balzer is a Republican, for years one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county, and has been for twenty-one years treasurer of Mountain Lake and for about twenty years a member of the school board of that city, now serving as treasurer of the board; while in other ways he has shown his interest in the civic and business life of his home town.

It was in 1883, at Mountain Lake, that Frank Balzer was united in marriage to Agatha Hiebert, who was born in Russia on December 13, 1860, daughter of David and Sarah (Penner) Hiebert, who came to the United States in 1877, and came to Minnesota, locating at Mountain Lake. There David Hiebert erected a grist-mill and was there engaged as a miller and grain buyer until his death, and his widow is still living in her home in that city. To Mr. and Mrs. Balzer seven children have been born, namely: Jacob F., now a member of the faculty of Bethel College at Newton, Kansas; Sarah, who married Prof. C. C. Regier, former member of the faculty of Bethel College, who is now doing post-graduate work in the University of Chicago; David C., an associate of his father in business at Mountain Lake, under the firm name of Frank Balzer & Company; Susie, who is at home with her parents; Frank, Jr., who is now at Carleton College at Northfield; Martha, who died at the age of ten years, and Olga, who has just completed the work in the grade schools, ready for high school. Mr. and



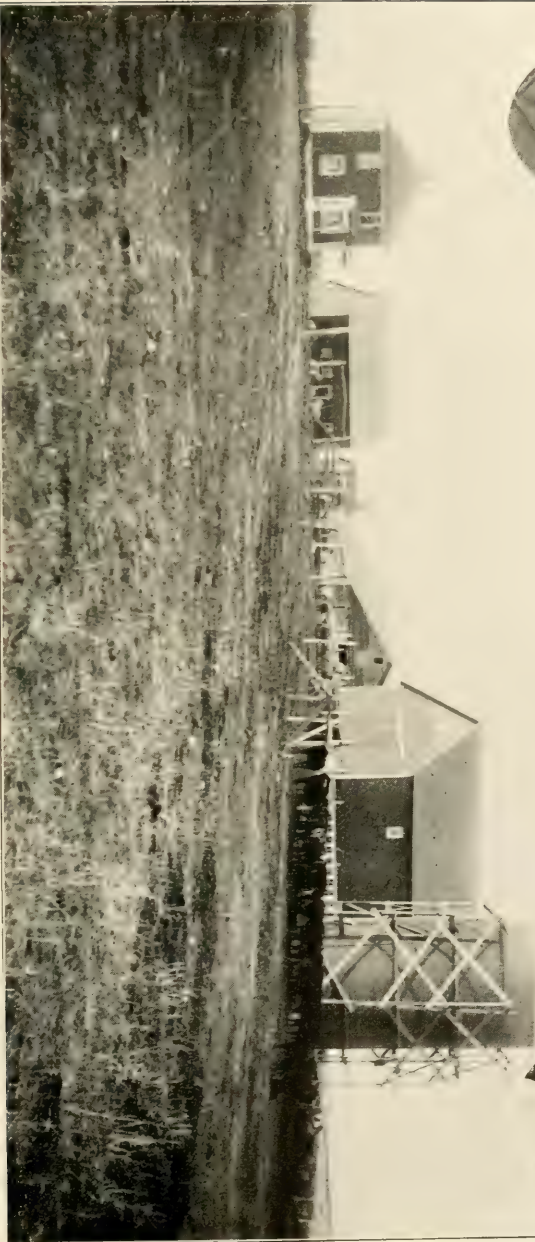
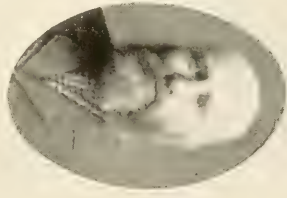
Mrs. Balzer are earnest members of the Mennonite church and for years have taken an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works.

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### JACOB J. FAST.

Jacob J. Fast, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres in the vicinity of Windom, former chairman of the board of supervisors of Lakeside township and for years interested in the civic and industrial life of that community, is a native of Russia, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was fifteen years old and is very properly regarded as one of the pioneers of this region. He was born on a farm in southern Russia, May 14, 1860, son of John and Ann (Peters) Fast, the former a native of that same district in the czar's domain and the latter a native of Germany, who had moved with her parents to that district when nine years of age. In 1875, deciding that the New World across the sea offered a better opportunity for his family than he could hope to secure for them in the old country, John Fast came to the United States with his family and proceeded straightway to Minnesota, settling in the village of Mountain Lake, in Cottonwood county. After a brief residence there, he bought a quarter of a section of land in Carson township, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life. He and his wife were members of the Mennonite church and their children were reared in that simple faith. There were eleven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Henry, Abraham (deceased), Gerhard (deceased), John, Bernard, Anna, Sarah, Lena, Peter and Herman (deceased).

Jacob J. Fast was about fifteen years old when he came to Minnesota with his parents in 1875. He had received the benefit of tuition in the government schools of his native land and after coming here attended school for a while. As a young man he began working out for neighboring farmers, but after his marriage, in 1882, made his home in Mountain Lake, where he lived for eight years, two years of which time he spent working on the railroad section; three years as a carpenter and three years as a drayman and at farm labor. In, 1890 Mr. Fast bought a farm of three hundred and



MR. AND MRS. JACOB T. EAST AND RESIDENCE.



twenty acres in section 6, Lakeside township, and ever since has made his home there. The place was wholly unimproved when he took possession and he has made on it all the substantial improvements which go to make it one of the best farms in that locality. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Fast added to his land holdings until he now is the owner of a fine place of four hundred and eighty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to stock raising and keeps a good herd of Shorthorn cattle and a fine flock of sheep. He has given proper attention to general industrial conditions hereabout and is interested in the farmers elevator at Delft. Mr. Fast is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in the civic affairs of his home township. For ten years he has served as a member of the township board and for six years of that period was chairman of the board.

It was in 1882, seven years after coming to this country, that Jacob J. Fast was united in marriage to Lena Penner, who died in 1902, leaving seven children, Lena, Anna, Catherine, Mary, John, Jacob and Henry, who are doing well their respective parts in the community in which they live.

Mr. Fast has been seriously handicapped by several cyclones which did considerable damage to his property, and he has also lost some crops through hail storms.

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### JENS C. JENSEN.

Jens C. Jensen, one of the best-known and most prosperous farmers of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township, chairman of the board of supervisors of that township and in other ways actively identified with the civic interests of his home neighborhood, is a native son of Watonwan county, born on the farm on which he now makes his home, and has lived there all his life. He was born on October 11, 1868, son of Notto and Lena Jensen, both natives of Norway, the former of whom, an honored veteran of the Civil War, was the first settler in that wide strip of now thickly settled territory lying between Madelia and Jackson, this state.

Notto Jensen was born in Norway in 1835 and when eighteen years of age, in 1853, came to the United States, locating in Wisconsin. He was married at Butternut Valley, Brown county, after the Civil War, to Lena



Erickson, daughter of Christian and Mary Erickson, who had come to this country and settled in Wisconsin in 1846. For some time Notto Jensen farmed in Wisconsin and then came into Minnesota and was living in this state when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in Company I, Sixth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the war. His location in Watonwan county was made before the passage of the homestead laws and he pre-empted the quarter of a section where his son, Jens C., now lives, in Rosendale township. He later homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in section 12, to which he presently added an adjoining "eighty," and early came to be regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. Later he bought a farm of two hundred and seven acres in the vicinity of Madelia, selling his two quarter sections further south to his two elder sons, Jens C. and Martin L., and thereafter made his home on the farm near Madelia, where he spent the rest of his life. Notto Jensen not only was a good farmer, but he was a good citizen and took an active part in local civic affairs. He was a Democrat and for years served his community as a member of the school board and as a member of the township board. His wife died in 1896 and he survived until 1902. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom Jens C. was the first born, the others being Martin L., Mary J., Ole I., Albert T., George Henry, Willie J., Anna Louise and Walter A., all of whom are living save Anna Louise.

Jens Jensen was reared on the paternal farm in Rosendale township and from early boyhood was a valuable assistant to his father in the work of developing the same. He supplemented his schooling in the district school by a course in the Mankato Normal school and for some years taught school during the winters, continuing his work on the farm during the summers. He married in 1893 and after coming into possession of the old home farm began to make important improvements on the same. In 1909 he built a new barn, thirty-six by eighty, and in 1911 put up a capacious silo. In 1914 he erected a new dwelling house and he and his family are now comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Jensen has given considerable attention to the raising of fine live stock and has done very well. Mr. Jensen is a Democrat and for years has been a member of the township board, of which board he is now the chairman. He also has done good service as a member of the school board and in other ways has contributed of his time and his energies to the public service.

It was in 1893 that Jens C. Jensen was united in marriage to Lena

Jorgenson, who also was born in Rosendale township, in 1867, daughter of Ole and Karen Jorgenson, natives of Norway, who were the first homesteaders in the territory between Madelia and Jackson, having settled in what is now Rosendale township not long after Notto Jensen had pre-empted his claim in that section. Ole Jorgenson was a good farmer and a man of substance, an influence for good in his neighborhood. He died in 1892, and his widow survived until 1902. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Mrs. Jensen was the eighth in order of birth, the others being Knute, George O., Mary, Lizzie, Ida, Anna, Amelia and Matilda, all of whom are living except Amelia. To Mr. and Mrs. Jensen four children have been born, namely: Grace F., who was born on June 6, 1894; Elmer C., November 29, 1896; Edna L., December 23, 1899, and Vernon L., September 10, 1912. The Jensens are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works.

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#### N. C. MATTISON.

When N. C. Mattison landed in this country from Denmark in 1886, he had twenty-five cents as his sole monetary possession. Now he is the owner of nearly one thousand acres of land and has long been accounted one of the leading farmers and stockmen of Cottonwood county and one of the valuable factors in the development of the northern part of that county, his home being in Highwater township, where he has lived since 1899 and where he has developed one of the finest bits of property in that section of the county.

N. C. Mattison was born on a farm in Denmark, February 23, 1867, son of Mattis and Anna Peterson, natives of that same country, both now deceased, who reared a family of thirteen children, only two of whom came to the United States. N. C. Mattison received his schooling in his native land and, when nineteen years of age, came to the United States. He stopped for a year in Hartford, Connecticut, and then worked in the state of New York for eight months, at the end of which time he came West, stopping at Maple Park, Illinois, from which place, eight months later, he went to Iowa, where for about five years he worked at various occupations, chiefly farming, after which he began farming on his own account and was thus engaged until he came to this state in 1899. Upon his arrival in Cottonwood county,

Mr. Mattison bought a quarter of a section of land in Highwater county, established his home there and has since lived there. From the beginning of his farming operations there he prospered and has gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of eight hundred acres of fine land in Cottonwood county and one hundred and sixty acres about twelve miles from Jamestown, North Dakota. Mr. Mattison has improved his home farm in excellent shape and he and his family are pleasantly situated there. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to Shorthorn cattle, and has done very well. Mr. Mattison is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

Mr. Mattison has been married twice. His first wife, who was Belle Larson, died leaving one child, a daughter, Myrtle. Mr. Mattison then married Lizzie Tolifson and to this union nine children have been born: Noah, Menered, Harry, Ella, Arthur, Esther, Mary, Joseph and Leslie. Mr. and Mrs. Mattison are members of the Baptist church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all local good works.

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#### DAVID D. SCHULTZ.

David D. Schultz, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake and identified with the general interests of that part of the county, is a native of Cottonwood county and has lived there all his life. He was born on a homestead farm in Mountain Lake township, May 9, 1880, son of David and Susie (Vought) Schultz, natives of southern Russia and pioneers of this part of Minnesota, who are now living comfortably retired in the village of Mountain Lake.

David Schultz, who was born in southern Russia on March 24, 1841, is the son of Henry Schultz and wife, who came to Minnesota from southern Russia in 1875 and with their family settled in Cottonwood county, on a homestead farm in Mountain Lake township, being among the earliest settlers in that part of the county. They were members of the Mennonite church and were regarded as among the leaders in the considerable colony of persons of that faith who began to settle hereabout in the early days. Henry Schultz was a native of Germany, but had located in southern Russia in his young manhood and had lived in the latter place until he came to America.



Three times after locating in Minnesota he returned to his old home in Russia and on his last visit there was taken ill and died. His wife's last days were spent on the homestead farm in Mountain Lake township.

David Schultz received his education in the common schools of the German colony in Russia. On coming to America he first went to South Dakota, but in 1875 he located in this section of Minnesota. He took an active part in the work of developing and improving his father's homestead and later began farming on his own account, homesteading a farm in the vicinity of that of his father in Mountain Lake township. Some time after his marriage he moved into Midway township, where he established his home on a farm in section 27 and became a very successful farmer, long having been regarded as one of the leading agriculturists in that part of the county. Some time ago he and his wife retired from the labors of the farm and moved to Mountain Lake, where they have a pleasant home and where they are comfortably situated. Mr. Schultz is a Republican and for many years has taken a warm interest in local political affairs. He and his wife are members of the Mennonite church and long have been actively interested in its beneficences.

David Schultz was married in 1871 to Susanna Voth, and to them were born the following children: John D., Isaac, Helena, Maria, David D., Hy D., Peter D. and Jacob S.

David D. Schultz was eight years old when his parents moved from the homestead farm in Mountain Lake township to Midway township and he was reared on the home farm in the latter township, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and there he remained, a valued assistant to his father in the work of developing and improving the home place, until 1905, the year of his marriage, when he bought the quarter section on which he ever since has made his home, in section 26 of that same township. Mr. Schultz has applied modern methods to the cultivation of his place and has improved the same in admirable fashion. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in local politics, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1905 David D. Schultz was united in marriage to Anna Eitzen, who was born in the neighboring county of Watonwan in 1886, daughter of Peter Eitzen and wife, early settlers of that part of the state, and to this union five children have been born, Hilda, Ferdinand, Alvin (deceased),



Susie and Samuel. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz are members of the Mennonite church and take an active interest in the affairs of that congregation, as well as in all neighborhood good works.

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### MONRAD HARBITZ.

Monrad Harbitz, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and forty-five acres in the vicinity of St. James, and actively identified with the general interest of the community in which he has lived all his life, is a native son of Watonwan county and has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region from the days of his childhood. He was born on the pioneer farm on which he still lives, January 13, 1886, son of George and Johanna (Rodseth) Harbitz, natives of Norway and early settlers of Watonwan county, the former of whom died on March 23, 1914, at the age of sixty-seven, and the latter, at the age of seventy-three, is making her home with her youngest son, the subject of this biographical sketch.

George Harbitz and his wife came to this country from Norway in 1867 and proceeded to Minnesota, coming to this part of the state, which then was being opened to settlement, and located in Rosendale township, Watonwan county, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of that part of the county. Mr. Harbitz homesteaded a tract of eighty acres, on which he established his home, and began to take a prominent part in the pioneer activities of that region. He was a good farmer and as he developed his homestead and prospered in his operations, he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine place of three hundred and eighty acres, well kept and profitably cultivated. Mr. Harbitz allied himself with the Democratic party upon becoming a citizen of this country and for years was one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county. For some years he was chairman of the board of supervisors of Rosendale township and for many years served as a member of the local school board, while in other ways he took an active part in local civic affairs and was a useful and influential citizen. He and his wife were, from the beginning of their residence in this county, among the leaders in the work of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. They were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are now living: Johanna, Ingaborg, Anna, Karen, Mary, Hannah and Monrad.

Monrad Harbitz was reared on the old homestead farm on which he was born and became a practical farmer. He finished his schooling in the Madelia schools and early began farming on his own account. He now owns one hundred and forty-five acres of the old home farm, where he makes his home, and is doing well in his farming operations, which are conducted along modern lines of agriculture. He gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done well in that line. The farm of Mr. Harbitz is well kept and well improved and he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. One of the attractive features of the place is the fine grove and the splendid avenue of great trees skirting the sides of the highway, which were planted by the elder Harbitz when he began to develop his homestead back in the sixties and which have grown to be veritable landmarks in that section.

In 1913 Monrad Harbitz was united in marriage to Anna Grogan, daughter of Mathew and Mary (Reynolds) Grogan, of Riverdale township, old settlers there, and to this union two sons have been born, Lawrence and Francis. Mr. Harbitz is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and takes an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the churches. Mrs. Harbitz is a Catholic. Mr. Harbitz is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. He is progressive, public-spirited and enterprising and is regarded as one of the substantial young farmers of the community in which he lives.

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#### A. W. ENGLUND.

A. W. Englund, clerk of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, and one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of that part of the county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Jeffers, is a native of Sweden, but has lived in this country ever since he was six years old. He was born on a farm on August 17, 1863, son of John and Catherine (Monson) Englund, who came to the United States in the spring of 1869 and settled on a farm in Buena Vista county, Iowa, where both spent the remainder of their lives. Catherine Englund died in 1874, leaving three children, of whom A. W. was the eldest, the others being John E. and Amanda. John Englund later married Maria Larson, and to that union three children were born, Charles H., Emma and Hilda. John Englund died in August, 1904.

A. W. Englund was reared on the paternal farm in Buena Vista county, Iowa, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and when a young man started farming in that county on his own account. In the spring of 1901, the year of his marriage, he quit farming there and moved to Marathon, Iowa, where he engaged in the real-estate business and was thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he bought a general hardware and implement store in that town and conducted the same until he sold out in 1904 and moved to Murray county, Minnesota, where he lived for two years. He then, in 1906, moved into Cottonwood county, bought the northeast quarter of section 18 in Amboy township, established his home there and has lived there ever since, he and his family being well situated. Mr. Englund is a progressive and up-to-date farmer and has prospered in his operations until he has come to be regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood. He is a Republican and is now serving as clerk of the township.

On May 1, 1901, A. W. Englund was united in marriage to Minnie Anderson and to this union six children have been born, Edna, Carrie, Arnold, Ada, Bena and Marjorie. Mr. and Mrs. Englund are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works.

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### FRANCIS M. DYER.

Francis M. Dyer, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, one of the real pioneers of this section of the state, for some years superintendent of schools of Cottonwood county, who also served the public as supervisor and as assessor in his home township and who for years has been clerk of the school board, is a native of the state of Maine, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1864 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the marvelous development of this section of the great Northwest during the past generation. Mr. Dyer was born in the town of Jackson, in Waldo county, Maine, August 28, 1841, son of Thompson and Lucy Bruce (White) Dyer, both natives of the state of Massachusetts, the former born on March 31, 1804, and the latter, October 16, 1808.

Thompson Dyer received his education in the Massachusetts public schools and at the age of eighteen went to Belfast, Maine, whence, after a







MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS M. DYER.



RESIDENCE OF FRANCIS M. DYER.  
From photograph taken in summer of 1891.



few years, he moved to Jackson, in that same state, where he made his home until 1852, in which year he moved to Skohegan, county seat of Somerset county, Maine, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in March, 1883. Thompson Dyer was a miller and carpenter and an active, energetic citizen. He served as a soldier during the Aroostook dispute with England and the United States over boundary lines between Maine and New Brunswick. Upon the formation of the Republican party he became allied with the same and remained faithful to the principles of his party to the end. He was twice married, by his first wife, who was Judith Chase, having had four children, Henry, Samuel, Woodbridge and Alma. Upon the death of the mother of these children he married Lucy Bruce White, and to that union two children were born, the subject of this biographical sketch and a daughter, Almatia.

Francis M. Dyer was reared in his native town in Maine, receiving his schooling in the local schools, and there he learned the trade of millwright. He early began teaching school and while thus employed became engaged as a clerk in a drug store, which latter vocation he followed for about eighteen months. In 1862 he married and two years later, in 1864, came to Minnesota, settling at Plainview, in Wabasha county, where he lived for seven years, teaching school during the winters and engaged in farming during the summers. In 1870 Mr. Dyer came over this part of the state and entered a claim to a quarter of a section of land in Lakeside township, Cottonwood county. The next year, 1871, he moved his family out here and established his home on that homestead tract and there has made his home ever since. Mr. Dyer was a valuable factor in the pioneer life of this region. As a school teacher his services were immediately in demand and with the exception of four or five years, he taught school in Cottonwood county from the time of his arrival until in 1908, when he retired from the county's teaching force, after many years of useful service. He was appointed county superintendent of schools not long after arriving in Cottonwood county, the third incumbent in that office, and later filled the unexpired term of L. J. Robinson. In the meantime, during the summers, Mr. Dyer was engaged in developing his homestead farm and it was not long until he had one of the best farms in that part of the county, well improved and profitably cultivated. He and his family endured all the hardships of pioneer life, but persevered in the face of what now no doubt would be regarded as almost insuperable difficulties and presently were well and substantially established. In addition to his valuable service as superintendent of schools, Mr. Dyer also has rendered valuable service to the public in the capacity of township



assessor, in which office he served for three years, and also has served as supervisor and for many years as clerk of the school board.

It was on June 29, 1862, that Francis M. Dyer was united in marriage, in his native state, to Harriet U. Weld, daughter of Zebina and Esther (Ridgeway) Weld, and to this union nine children have been born, namely: Willis F., who married R. Redding and died, leaving one child, a son, Leland D. Redding, who has always made his home with his maternal grandparents; Abbie May, who died at the age of twenty-two years; Marion Clyde, who married Ruth McCurdy; Blanche, unmarried; Elsie, unmarried; Grace R., who married Frank Benham, and Merton W., who married Mrytle Chadderdon. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer are members of the Presbyterian church at Windom and have ever given their support to measures designed to advance the common welfare hereabout. Mr. Dyer formerly was an elder of the Presbyterian church at Bingham Lake and in the early days did much to advance the work of the church hereabout. His children have, in turn, taken their places worthily in the common life of this community and the family, very properly, has long been regarded as one of the useful and earnest factors in the social and cultural development of this region.

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### HENRY A. MARTIN.

Henry A. Martin, a well-known and substantial farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of four hundred and thirty acres, four and one-half miles northeast of Madelia and generally recognized as one of the most progressive citizens of that part of the county, was born on the farm on which he is still making his home and has lived there all his life, having been a witness to and a participant in the development which has marked this region within his lifetime. He was born on April 19, 1866, son of Alfred and Syneva (Johnson) Martin, pioneers of this section of the state, who for years exerted a wide influence in the general life of the community in which they lived.

Alfred Martin was a native of Norway, born in 1828, and was a young man when he came to the United States with his parents, the family settling at Madison, Wisconsin. When the Civil War broke out Alfred Martin was a resident of Minnesota, having come to this state in pioneer days from Wisconsin, and he enlisted for service in the Eleventh Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for a year, at the end of which

time he received his honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability, his health having been shattered by the hardships he was compelled to undergo. He homesteaded a quarter of a section in section 2, Madelia township, Watonwan county, and there established his home, he and his wife becoming useful pioneers of that section. They were members of the Lutheran church and did much to advance the common welfare in the neighborhood of their home in early days. Alfred Martin was an excellent farmer and added to his homestead tract until he became one of the considerable landowners of that township. He improved his farm in excellent shape, planted trees, built a good home and did well in his farming operations. His wife died on July 14, 1892, and he survived until 1909, his death occurring at Lake Benton. He was buried, however, in the cemetery near his old home. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Henry A. was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Bertha, Sarah, Jennie, Elizabeth, John, Peter and Anthony, all of whom are living save the latter.

Henry A. Martin was reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born and is still living there, having years ago bought a tract of four hundred and thirty acres, including the old homestead, from his father. He received his schooling in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home and continued at home, a valuable aid to his father in the development of the home place. He married in 1892 and established a home of his own, early becoming recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. His fine new home was built about seven years ago. The house is lighted with gas and is well equipped as a comfortable residence. The barn and other farm buildings are in keeping with the residence and the farm is well improved. Mr. Martin is a progressive farmer, a believer in modern methods of agriculture, and has done very well. He has a fine, big, seven-passenger automobile and has a gasoline engine to lighten the labors about the barn. Mr. Martin has given considerable attention to the dairy side of farming and has done well in that line, having a fine herd of Durhams. He also raises Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs and has had excellent success in both these directions. Mr. Martin has for years given thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and since 1914 has been serving as a member of the board of supervisors of his home township.

It was on December 15, 1892, that Henry A. Martin was united in marriage to Mary Schalben, who was born at Linden, in Brown county, this state, on October 25, 1870, daughter of Valentine and Emily (Halverson) Schalben. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have four children living, Stella,

Willard, Howard and Oliver. The Martins are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their neighborhood, ever having been among the leaders in the promotion of movements looking to the advancement of the general welfare thereabout.

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### JOHN W. SOMERS.

John W. Somers, chairman of the board of commissioners of Watonwan county and one of the most progressive farmers of St. James township, that county, proprietor of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of the city of St. James, a pioneer of this section and for many years active in the public service, is a native of Connecticut, born on August 29, 1845, son of Rufus and Esther (Peck) Somers, both natives of that same state, the former born in 1800 and the latter in 1798, who spent all their lives in their native state. Rufus Somers died in 1857 and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1884. They were the parents of six children, who grew to maturity, of whom John W. is now the sole survivor, the others having been Emily, Henry, George, Esther and David.

John W. Somers was reared in Connecticut and obtained his schooling in the public schools in the neighborhood of his home there. When twenty-two years of age, in 1868, he came to Minnesota and after a short stay in St. Paul proceeded to Blue Earth county and the next year, 1869, came over into Watonwan county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in what is now section 28 of St. James township, to which he later added a quarter of a section in sections 27 and 28, and proceeded to develop the same. In 1881 he married and established his home on his homestead place. Some years later a series of business reverses caused him to lose his home farm and he was compelled to start all over again. Nothing daunted by his failure he went bravely to work and, about 1890, was able to buy another quarter section in that same township. To this he later added an adjoining "eighty" and now has a well-kept and highly-cultivated farm of two hundred and forty acres in sections 33 and 34. He has a substantial and comfortable residence there, a modern barn and other farm buildings to match, and is very well situated. He built his residence in 1901 and his barn in 1906. His farming operations have been carried on along up-to-date lines and he has done very well.



Ever since coming to Minnesota, back in pioneer days, Mr. Somers has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and for many years has been regarded as one of the leaders in the Republican party in Watonwan county. For more than thirty-two years he has been clerk of the town board; for ten years a member of the school board of St. James corporation and for twenty-two years a member of the school board in the township. In 1913 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the board of county commissioners and was elected chairman of the board upon the organization of the same and is now serving in that capacity. Mr. Somers is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that popular organization.

In 1881 John W. Somers was united in marriage to Mary King, who was born in the state of Illinois, daughter of William King and wife, who became pioneers of Watonwan county, and the latter of whom died years ago, after which her husband made his home with the subject of this sketch, where his death occurred in 1902. Mrs. Somers ever was an able and competent helpmate to her husband and took an active part in the general social affairs of her home community, her death, on September 16, 1910, causing much sorrow in the neighborhood in which she had lived so long. She was the mother of eight children, Rufus, Esther, David, Margaret, Ruth, Emma, Francis and Mary, all of whom are living and who are doing well their respective parts in the common life of this community.

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### JAMES S. MATHER.

The fact that agricultural pursuits have not progressed as they should have done in this country during the past ten years, is recognized by far-seeing men to such an extent that at the present time we find some of the strongest minds of the country grappling with the problem of putting agriculture on a permanent and sound basis.

James S. Mather is one of the wide-awake farmers of Madelia township, Watonwan county. He was born in Waushara county, Wisconsin, January 8, 1852, and is a son of John and Mary E. (Bedient) Mather. The father was a native of Vermont. His death occurred in 1875, at the age of fifty-three years. In his earlier career he moved to Lockport, New York, where he worked at the carpenter's trade and where he was married, later moving to Wisconsin, locating near Green Bay, buying a small farm on



which he spent about eight years; then came to Rice county, Minnesota, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, on which he spent the rest of his life. His family consisted of the following children: Harriet, Mary A., James S., F. W. and J. H. The father of these children was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in the work of the same. His widow died in November, 1912, at the advanced age of eighty-six years, having survived him thirty-seven years.

James S. Mather grew up on the home farm, and received his education in the public schools of Rice county, Minnesota. On November 11, 1871, he married Emma E. Fanning, who was born in Wabasha county, this state, February 22, 1857. She is a daughter of George W. and Sophronia A. (Bradford) Fanning. William Bradford, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Mather, was a native of Vermont, devoted his active life to farming, living in Switzerland county, Indiana, on a farm for many years. He was a member of the Baptist church. The paternal grandparents, David and Mary (Hoyt) Fanning, first lived in the state of New York, then moved to Illinois, among the pioneers of that state. They finally moved to Wabasha county, Minnesota, and spent the rest of their lives near Lake City. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. The father of Mrs. Mather was twelve years old when his parents moved with their family to near Henry, Illinois, and he was married in that state. He was one of the band of gold seekers to cross the plains in the days of the gold excitement on the Pacific coast, but being sick the entire time that he spent in the gold fields, he returned unsuccessful. He came to Wabasha county, Minnesota, in 1855, where he became owner of one hundred and sixty acres, later moved to Rice county, this state, where he spent eight years, then came to Madelia township, Watonwan county, where he continued farming about twenty years, owning a farm here of five hundred and thirty acres. His death occurred here on September 1, 1912, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. His wife preceded him to the grave on May 19, 1907, at the age of seventy-nine years. To these parents the following children were born: Emma E., wife of Mr. Mather; Annie is deceased; Olive M. was next in order of birth; Eliza A. is deceased, and William D., the youngest. The parents of these children were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in the work of the same.

James S. Mather located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Rice county, Minnesota, where he spent sixteen years, then sold out and bought a farm in Madelia township, Watonwan county, purchasing part of

the farm of his father-in-law before moving here. He spent two and one-half years in Faribault, this state, where he engaged in the pump and wind-mill business; then spent three and one-half years in Westbrook, Cottonwood county, in the hardware and implement business, under the firm name of Swain & Mather Hardware Company. All the while he retained his farm in Madelia township, Watonwan county, which place consists of two hundred acres, which is now looked after by his children. He also owns two hundred acres in Cass county, Minnesota, and a half interest in a tract of five hundred and twenty-nine acres in Polk county, this state.

Politically, Mr. Mather is a Prohibitionist. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a steward and was formerly a trustee. He was at one time superintendent of the Sunday school. His wife belongs to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mather, namely: Olive M., who is the wife of Wesley Tate, of Madelia township, and they have one child, Lyle; George A. was next in order of birth; Carrie B. is the wife of Clyde Maberry, an electrician of Minneapolis, and they have two children, Everett and Vera; Clarence E., who lives in Watonwan county, married Marjory Cisney, and they have one child, Richard; Clinton B., who lives in Westbrook, Cottonwood county, married Olive Archard; Earl E., farming in Fieldon township, and Perry J., at home.

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#### A. F. MEYER.

A. F. Meyer, whose name heads this sketch, was born in Owatonna, Steele county, Minnesota, May 29, 1886, a son of H. A. and Sophia (Hom-meyer) Meyer, the father a native of Germany and the mother a native of Steele county, Minnesota. When a boy of nine years, the father came to America and located in Steele county, Minnesota, where he grew to manhood and was married. He is now living at Claremont, Dodge county, Minnesota.

A. F. Meyer was educated in the public schools of Steele county, and later attended the high school at Claremont, following this by taking a course in the business college at Owatonna. He then engaged in the banking business, first taking a position in the bank in Claremont, in 1902. In

January, 1904, he went to Madelia, Minnesota, and took a position in the First National Bank, at that place, and continued there for about four years. In October, 1908, he took a position in the First National Bank, at Belleplaine, Scott county, and remained there until July, 1915, when he came to Westbrook to accept the position of cashier of the First National Bank of this place, the position which he holds at the present time.

Mr. Meyer has practically grown up in the business and is thoroughly familiar with modern banking methods in all its details. He is a progressive, public-spirited young banker. The Masonic order is his only fraternal affiliation.

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### OLE E. SUNDT.

Upon the roll of representative business men of Watonwan county is Ole E. Sundt, cashier of the State Bank of LaSalle. He possesses those qualities of head and heart which not only bring success in a material way, but commend themselves to persons of intelligence and good citizenship. He was born in Norway, October 25, 1875, and is a son of Einar and Ronnaug (Kveen) Sundt, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, were married and resided until 1888, when they immigrated to America, locating in Watonwan county, Minnesota, where the father engaged in farming. He is now living in Hanska. The mother died several years ago. To these parents six children were born.

Ole E. Sundt was thirteen years old when his parents brought him to the new world. He received a common-school education, including the schools of Brown county and Madelia, also studied at the Curtis Commercial College, in 1895 and 1896, after which he became manager for the Nelson and Albin Mercantile Association, which position he held four years, giving the firm the utmost satisfaction. He then came to Sleepy Eye, where he engaged in general mercantile pursuits until 1906, when he moved to LaSalle and assisted in organizing the State Bank of LaSalle, and he has filled the position of cashier of this popular and sound institution ever since, doing much toward its success. A general banking business is carried on along conservative lines, and the bank has enjoyed a steady growth from the first, meeting a long-felt want in this community. Mr. Sundt is a stockholder and director in the bank. Under the supervision of Mr. Sundt, this bank has achieved success, its deposits gradually increasing until it now has a



STATE BANK OF LA SALLE.





substantial standing among banks of this class, at this time, having about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars deposits.

Mr. Sundt was married on March 14, 1900, to Clara Olson, of Brown county, Minnesota, and to this union the following children have been born: Horace and Evelyn.

Mr. Sundt is a member of the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Brotherhood of America. Politically, he is independent.

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### WILLIAM JUHNKE.

William Juhnke, a well-known and progressive farmer of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, member of the board of supervisors of that township and otherwise actively identified with the civic life of his home community, is a native of Germany, but has lived in Minnesota since he was about a year old. He was born on October 5, 1869, son of Fred and Augusta (Bader) Juhnke, natives of Germany, pioneers of Cottonwood county. Fred Juhnke is still living on his homestead farm in Germantown township, but his wife is dead.

Fred Juhnke was a tailor in his native land. In 1870 he and his family came to the United States and proceeded directly to the Northwest. For a year or two they made their home in Wisconsin and then came to Minnesota and settled in Cottonwood county. Fred Juhnke homesteaded eighty acres of land in Germantown township and there established his home, early becoming recognized as one of the substantial and influential farmers of that section of the county. He is still living on the old homestead farm. They were members of the German Evangelical church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom William was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Charles, Minnie, Flora, Fred, Emil, Anna, Edward, Herman and Mary.

William Juhnke was but a baby when his parents came to this country and his youth and early manhood were spent on the old homestead farm in Germantown township. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home there and grew up to the life of the farm, becoming an excellent farmer. As a young man he started farming on the place on which he now lives and in 1891, when twenty-two years old, bought

the place, a full quarter of a section, and proceeded to improve the same. After his marriage, in 1897, he established his home on that farm and has ever since lived there, he and his family being pleasantly situated. Mr. Juhnke has made all the improvements on the place and his farm is looked upon as one of the best-kept places in that part of the county. In addition to general farming, he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. Mr. Juhnke has for years given close attention to local political affairs and has been a member of the board of supervisors of Germantown township since the year 1900. He also has served for some years as a member of the school board.

On July 23, 1897, William Juhnke was united in marriage to Martha Utecht, and to this union four children have been born, Levi, Fred, Everett and Adell. Mr. and Mrs. Juhnke are members of the German Evangelical church and take a proper interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works.

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#### OLE A. OLSON.

Ole A. Olson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, now living comfortably retired in the city of Madelia, is a native of Wisconsin, born in Green Bay county, that state, December 29, 1855, son of Andrew and Anna (Effson) Olson, natives of Norway, whose last days were spent in Minnesota, they having become earnest and influential pioneers of Watonwan county in the days preceding the Civil War.

Andrew Olson, an honored veteran of the Civil War, came to this state from Wisconsin. He was the son of Ole Olson and was reared on a farm in Norway. He married in his native land and he and his wife shortly afterward came to the United States, settling in Green Bay county, Wisconsin, in 1852, some time later coming over into Minnesota and settling in Watonwan county, being among the pioneers of this section of the state. Andrew Olson homesteaded a tract of sixty-three acres in Madelia township and there established his home. He prospered in his farming operations and at the time of his death in 1909, he then being seventy-five years of age, was the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. During the Civil War Andrew Olson served for three years as a member of the Eleventh Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. His wife preceded him

to the grave two years, her death having occurred in 1907. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Julia, Andrew, Ellef, Anon, Gunder, Halvor, Mary and Lena.

Ole A. Olson was reared on the paternal homestead farm, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and presently became a farmer on his own account, eventually becoming the owner of a farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Madelia township. He married in 1884 and continued farming until 1910, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved into Madelia, where he and his wife are now living and where they are pleasantly situated, their son, Oscar, now managing the home farm. During his long residence on the farm, Mr. Olson took an active interest in local affairs; for twelve years was treasurer of his school district and for three years served as a member of the board of supervisors.

On June 16, 1884, Ole A. Olson was united in marriage to Lizzie Mary Anderson, daughter of Andrew and Julia Anderson, homesteaders of Riverside township, Watonwan county, the latter of whom is still living, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Albert, now living in Brown county, this state, who married Emma Melser and has one child, a daughter, Edna Emma, who married Carl Skrean and now lives in Northfield, this state, and Ella, Amelia, Oscar and Gilmer. The Olsons are all members of the Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works; ever willing to help promote the cause of good citizenship hereabout.

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#### DANIEL E. WOG.

Daniel E. Wog, chairman of the board of supervisors of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 23 of that township, a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Sanborn, a director of the Westbrook Fire Insurance Company and in other ways identified with the business interests of that community, is a native of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer homestead farm in Charlestown township, in the neighboring county of Redwood, March 20, 1875, son of Alexander and Agnetta (Dan-



ielson) Wog, natives of Sweden, both born in the same community in that country, and who became early settlers in the southern part of Redwood county back in pioneer days.

For some time after coming to this country, Alexander Wog worked in a brick-yard in St. Paul and was there engaged until 1871, in which year he homesteaded a tract of eighty acres in Charlestown township, Redwood county, and set about "proving up" the same. He and a neighbor owned a team of horses in partnership and for two years used that team in the joint labors of the two farms. One horse then died and they traded the other for a team of young oxen and continued working thus in amicable neighborliness until they were able to see their ways sufficiently clear to admit of the purchase of additional stock. In those days there were still a few Indians in this part of the country and Mr. Wog found a couple of abandoned canoes, which he utilized as mangers for his stock. After the first few hard years, however, he began to prosper and later added to his farm an adjoining "eighty" of school land, which he bought at auction, and became a substantial farmer. His death occurred on June 26, 1887, in a hospital at Minneapolis, to which place he had been taken for treatment for a cancer. Alexander Wog and wife were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom Daniel E. was the first born, the others being Carl O., Nels Gustav, Alexander, Wilhelm and Johan Alfred.

Daniel E. Wog grew to manhood on the homestead farm on which he was born, receiving his schooling in the old school house in district 33, Charlestown township, and from boyhood proved a valuable aid to his father in the labors of developing the home place. He also became a skilled painter and when not working on the farm was engaged in painting throughout that part of the country. In 1902 he bought the farm of two hundred acres on which he now lives, in section 23, Germantown township, Cottonwood county, and proceeded to develop the same. All the improvements have been made by him and the place is regarded as one of the best-improved farms in that part of the country, substantial buildings and everything in keeping with the same. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Amboy township, eighty of which was inherited by his wife, he afterward buying the adjoining eighty. Mr. Wog not only has been a successful farmer, but he has given considerable attention to outside business interests. He is a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Sanborn, a director of the Westbrook Fire Insurance Company, agent for the Madelia Farmers'

Cyclone Insurance Company and local agent for the Mutual Benefit Association. He also has given close attention to local civic affairs and since 1908 has been a member of the board of supervisors of Germantown township and has been serving as chairman of the board since 1912.

On March 7, 1910, Daniel E. Wog was united in marriage to Emma Grewatz, daughter of Ernest Grewatz, of Amboy. Mr. and Mrs. Wog are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in parish affairs, as well as in all local good works. They have a fine home and give proper attention to the various social activities of their home community, being accounted among the leaders in all movements designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

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### LINCOLN L. STORY.

Lincoln L. Story, a well-known and substantial farmer of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, and former member of the board of supervisors of that township, is a native of Iowa, born on a farm in Winneshiek county, that state, July 2, 1861, son of William A. and Eliza (Brod) Story, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Indiana, who for years were residents of Cottonwood county. Both are now dead.

William A. Story moved from New York state to Ohio when a young man and in the latter state engaged in farming. He married there and shortly afterward moved to Iowa, settling in Winneshiek county, where he was engaged in farming until 1879, in which year he came to Minnesota and located at Sleepy Eye, in Brown county, where he remained until 1881, when he moved to Cottonwood county and located on a farm of eighty acres in Amboy township, where he lived until his death. For some years, during the early part of his residence in Amboy township, Mr. Story was the local postmaster in that neighborhood, keeping the postoffice in his house on the farm. He was a Republican and took an active part in local political affairs, long having been one of the leaders of his party in that part of the county. To him and his wife seven children were born, of whom Lincoln L. was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Martha, Ella, Andrew, William, Rose and Liona.

Lincoln L. Story's early life was spent on the farm on which he was born in Iowa. He received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and was about eighteen years old when he came with

the family to Minnesota. As a young man he worked with his father on the farm and was thus engaged until after his marriage, in 1883, after which he began farming on his own account. He now has one hundred and sixty acres. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Story has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, having for three years served as a member of the board of township supervisors. He is a Mason and a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Mutual Benefit Association, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

In 1883 Mr. Story was united in marriage to Almira Marcott, daughter of David Marcott, of Amboy township, and to this union six children have been born, Altha, who married Harry Graff and lives in North Dakota; Hazel, Addie, who married Ivan Hoff and lives in Ironton, Minnesota; Lloyd, Floyd and Gertrude. The Storys take a proper interest in the general social activities of their home neighborhood and are helpful in promoting all movements designed to advance the common interest thereabout.

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### AUGUST W. NICKEL.

August W. Nickel, a progressive farmer of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, and owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres which he has developed in excellent shape, is a native of Germany, but has lived in Minnesota since he was six years old. He was born on May 18, 1873, son of Wilhelm and Emma (Luck) Nickel, natives of that country, who came to Minnesota in 1879 and settled on a homestead tract of eighty acres in Germantown township, Cottonwood county. Wilhelm Nickel started his farming operations in the new country with one ox and one cow, but quickly began to prosper and he gradually added to his tract until he was the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. There he made his home until 1904, when he and his wife moved to Lamberton, where they lived until 1910, in which year they moved to Jeffers, where they are now living. Wilhelm Nickel is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church, in the faith of which their children were reared. There were seven of these children, of whom August W. was the second in order of birth, the others being Minnie, Emma, W. C., Amelia, Lena and Fred.



August W. Nickel was six years of age when his parents came to Minnesota from Germany and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Germantown township, receiving his schooling in the public schools in that township. He early began farming on his own account and in 1894, when twenty-one years of age, bought the farm on which he is now living. Four years later he married and established his home there. When he bought the place it was an unimproved prairie tract and he has improved and brought the same to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Nickel is the owner of four hundred acres and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that section of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, paying particular attention to the breeding of Shorthorns.

In 1898 August W. Nickel was united in marriage to Louise Pankonin, daughter of Louis Pankonin, and to this union six children have been born, Lydia, Henry, Ella, Selma, Ervin and Agnes. Mr. and Mrs. Nickel are earnest members of the Evangelical church and are active workers in the same, Mr. Nickel having held at one time and another practically every office in the local church organization, at present serving as superintendent of the Sunday school. They also take a warm interest in other community good works and have been helpful in promoting various movements for the betterment of conditions in the neighborhood in which they live.

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### OLE E. SLETTA.

Ole E. Sletta is of Norwegian nativity, born in Norway, November 17, 1881. He is an elder brother of Alfred Sletta, whose ancestral sketch is given in another place in this volume.

Ole E. Sletta, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the district schools of Riverdale township, which was the family homestead during his early years. As a boy and young man he worked on the farm. Soon after attaining his majority, in 1905, he engaged in farming for himself, and followed this occupation until 1907. At that time he came to LaSalle and opened up a blacksmith shop and was engaged in this business for two years. On August 1, 1909, he became the manager of the plant of the Great Western Elevator Company, and has been thus employed since.

Mr. Sletta was married in 1907 to Thora Blackstad, daughter of T. H. Blackstad, of Riverdale township, Watonwan county. To this union three



children were born: Theo A., Ivan L., and Orval T. Mr. and Mrs. Ole E. Sletta are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is a Republican, and is at present clerk of the village. His lodge membership is with the Woodmen and with the Modern Brotherhood of America.

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### KNUT SEVRIN THOMPSON.

The fact that Knut Sevrin Thompson, clerk of the court of St. James, Watonwan county, has attained a very creditable position in the community through his own efforts, which have been practically unaided from boyhood, renders him the more worthy of the esteem that is freely accorded him by his fellowmen. He was born in Norway, May 19, 1865, and is a son of Jens and Johanna Sevrine (Svensen) Thompson, both natives of Norway, from which country they immigrated to America, landing in Quebec, Canada, May 19, 1868.

Jens Thompson was a ship-builder by trade. Upon leaving Quebec he came to Rosendale township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead of eighty acres, in section 10, his place being the most westerly of any in that part of the county. By hard work and close application he developed a good farm there on which he remained until his death in 1908, his wife having preceded him to the grave about ten years previously. He accumulated over two hundred acres of valuable land. His family consisted of the following children: Marie, Mrs. Henry Madson, Thomas J., who lives in Mobridge, South Dakota; Lizzie is the wife of E. N. Graven, Knut S., the subject of this review; Louisa is the wife of J. E. Johnson, and J. Caroline. They are all living at this writing. John C. Jacobsen was reared by Jens Thompson and wife and has always borne their surname. He is now residing in Mobridge, South Dakota. The parents of these children belonged to the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which faith they reared their family.

Knut S. Thompson grew up on the farm and attended the public schools, also spending three months in an evening school at Mankato, where he took a business course. He began life as a farmer and this has been his principal business. He remained on the homestead most of the time until in December, 1909, when he moved to St. James, having been elected clerk of the courts in the fall of 1908, taking office on January 1, 1910, and is still incumbent of the same. He has discharged his duties in an able,



KNUT S. THOMPSON.

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TILDEN FOUNDATION

faithful and satisfactory manner. He has also held the offices of township assessor and justice of the peace and has been township clerk of Rosendale township. He left the last named office to become clerk of the courts. He has always been active and influential in public affairs, and for a number of years one of the local leaders in the Republican party. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which he is a trustee.

Mr. Thompson was married on May 3, 1897, at Canton, South Dakota, to Christine Thompson, a native of Norway, from which country she came to America alone when a young girl. To this union three children have been born, namely: Henry Julius, Irvin Sevrin and Lenora Marie.

Mr. Thompson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Mutual Benefit Association.

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#### AMUND ANDERSON.

Amund Anderson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Madelia, is a native of Norway, born on August 31, 1866, son of Andrew and Sevena (Hanson) Peterson, who were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Hans. Andrew Peterson spent all his life in his native land and his widow is now making her home with her son in Madelia township, in her eighty-eighth year.

Amund Anderson came to the United States when he was twenty-five years of age and proceeded directly to Minnesota, locating in Faribault county, where friends of his from the old country previously had settled. There he remained for three years, at the end of which time he returned to his native land on a visit, remaining seven months, during which time he married Carrie Anderson. Upon his return to America with his wife, Mr. Anderson came to this part of the state and located on the quarter of a section, which he ever since has owned and where he ever since has lived, in Madelia township, and where he has done very well in his farming operations, being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He has made all the improvements on his place and besides the comfortable residence, capacious barn and other farm buildings to match, he has spent more than a thousand dollars in properly draining his place. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Anderson has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has excellent grades of cattle and hogs on his place.



To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson seven children have been born, Andrew, Albert, deceased; Henry, Robert, Dena, Albert and Julius. Of these children, Andrew, Robert and Henry are married and have homes of their own. The Andersons have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social affairs of the neighborhood in which they live. They are members of the Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the work of the same.

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### ELOF ERICKSON.

Elof Erickson, one of the most prosperous farmers in the vicinity of St. James, proprietor of a fine farm in section 35 of St. James township, Watonwan county, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a pioneer farm in Goodhue county, March 10, 1869, son of Swan and Besje Erickson, both natives of Sweden, the former born in 1830 and the latter in 1835, who are still living on their old homestead farm in Goodhue county.

Swan Erickson came to the United States in 1854, he then being twenty-four years of age, landing at New York, and in 1856 came to Minnesota, settling in Goodhue county, where he entered a tract of government land, being one of the earliest settlers of that part of the then Territory of Minnesota. In June, 1866, he married Besje Chellson, who had come to that same part of the state the year before, and established his home on the homestead tract. In 1873 he bought an adjoining quarter section and it was not long until he became recognized as one of the most substantial farmers of that section. He and his wife took an active part in the organization of the first Swedish Lutheran church in Vasa township, Goodhue county. Mr. Erickson is a Republican and has ever given close attention to political affairs in his community, on several occasions being elected to local office. Not long after the opening of this western part of the state to settlement he came over here and bought a tract of land in section 35, St. James township, Watonwan county, and an "eighty" in section 7, Long Lake township, later selling the latter tract and buying another "eighty" in sections 2 and 3 in Long Lake township, on which latter tract his son, John B. Erickson, is now making his home. To Swan Erickson and wife eight children were born, of whom Elof was the second in order of birth, the others being Hilda, Esther, John B. and Jennie (twins), Edward A. and Annie (twins), the latter of whom died in infancy, and Anna A.

Elof Erickson was reared on the paternal homestead in Goodhue

county, obtaining his schooling in the primitive schools of that time and place, and remained on the home farm, a valuable aid to his father in the development of the same, until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in the spring of 1894, he came to this part of the state and took charge of the tract of land his father had bought in the vicinity of St. James and there he ever since has made his home. He at once set about improving the place, planting a fine grove and in other ways beautifying the tract, and soon became recognized as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of that section. Four years after coming here he married and established a comfortable home on his place and has long held a responsible and dignified position in the community. He not only has prospered in his farming operations, but has found time to give a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. He is a Republican and for eleven years or more has been a member of the town board and for some years a member of the local school board. He and his wife are members of the St. James Swedish Lutheran church and take a general interest in local good works. On June 15, 1898, Elof Erickson was united in marriage to Christine Linquist, who was born in Nicollet county, this state, November 26, 1869, daughter of Gustav and Augusta Linquist, natives of Sweden, who are now residents of Long Lake township, Watonwan county. The Ericksons have a very pleasant home on their well-kept farm and take a proper part in the general social activities of their neighborhood.

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### JACOB M. GLASIER.

Jacob M. Glasier, one of the best-known farmers and stockmen in Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Rosendale township, in the vicinity of St. James, and widely known throughout this and neighboring states as a breeder of high-grade swine, is a native of Illinois, born on a farm near Pontiac, in Livingston county, that state, November 8, 1878, son of Peter and Anna (Fair) Glasier, natives of Germany, the former of whom was born on March 12, 1825, and the latter, May 5, 1840.

Peter Glasier and wife came to the United States in 1874 and located at Trenton, New Jersey, where they remained for a year, Mr. Glasier being employed in the wire mills there, he being an expert iron-worker and blacksmith. They then came West and settled in Livingston county, Illinois, where Peter Glasier bought a small farm in the neighborhood of Pontiac,

in Livingston county, erected a blacksmith shop on the same and there lived for nearly twenty years, farming and blacksmithing. In the spring of 1894 he disposed of his interests there and moved to Kossuth county, Iowa, where, in the vicinity of Whittemore, he was engaged in farming until 1901, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved into Whittemore, where he died on July 9, 1911, and where his widow is now living. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: A daughter, who died in infancy in Germany; Lena, who was born in Germany; Elizabeth, who was born in Trenton, New Jersey; another daughter, born in Livingston county, Illinois, who died in infancy; Peter J., born in Livingston county; Dr. William F. Glasier, born in Livingston county, who is now a practicing physician at Sisseton, South Dakota, and John T., also born in Livingston county.

Jacob M. Glasier was fifteen years old when his parents moved from Illinois to Iowa and his schooling was completed in the public schools of Kossuth county, in the latter state. He became an experienced farmer and early began farming on his own account. In 1909 he married and a couple of years later, in 1911, disposed of his interests in Iowa and came to Minnesota, settling in Watonwan county, where he since has made his home. Upon locating here, Mr. Glasier bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 17 of Rosendale township and proceeded to improve and develop the same until now he has one of the best-kept and most profitable farms in the vicinity of St. James. Mr. Glasier had had much success with the raising of hogs in Iowa and upon coming to Minnesota began operations on an extensive scale along that line, paying particular attention to the raising of pure-bred Poland China swine, with which he had been very successful in Iowa, for some years previous to coming to this state he having held annual sales of his high-grade hogs which attracted attention among stock breeders far and near. These annual sales have been continued on the Rosendale township farm and attract wide attention. Mr. Glasier ships his hogs into adjoining states, as well as throughout this state, and is a well-known exhibitor at state and county fairs. Mr. Glasier is a Democrat, but has never been an office seeker.

In 1909, in Iowa, Jacob M. Glasier was united in marriage to Anna Kennedy, of Algona, that state, daughter of John and Catherine (Mimsgarn) Kennedy; the former died in 1913 and the latter is still living at Algona, and to this union four children have been born, Catherine Bernice, Anna Stella, Theresa Beatrice and Dorothy Cecelia. Mr. and Mrs. Glasier



are members of the Catholic church and take an earnest interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works of the community and are a helpful influence in the neighborhood in which they live.

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### W. S. SWAIN.

W. S. Swain, one of Cottonwood county's most extensive farmers and the assessor of Amboy township, is a native of Canada, was reared in the state of New York and has been a resident of Minnesota since he was twenty years of age. He was born on a farm in the province of Ontario on September 13, 1865, son of Norman and Catherine (Garlough) Swain, who moved from Canada to the state of New York in 1866, settling on a farm, where Norman Swain died in 1869, leaving four sons, of whom W. S. was the second in order of birth, the others being James, Herbert and Bert, the latter two are twins. Mrs. Swain later married Silas Bump, but none of the children of that union are now living.

After the death of his father, W. S. Swain went to live with his maternal uncle, James Garlough, in St. Lawrence county, New York state, and there he lived until he was twenty years old, receiving his schooling in the public schools and growing up to the life of the farm, becoming a very competent farmer. In March, 1886, he came to Minnesota, locating at Windom. Shortly afterward he was engaged as superintendent of a big farm in Great Bend township and was thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time he started farming for himself in Dale township. Four years later he was employed in the real-estate business and was quite successfully engaged in that line for two years, at the end of which time he returned to New York, where he remained a year, returning then to Cottonwood county, where for a year he was engaged in farming in Lakeside township. After that, for a couple of years, he was employed in the livery business at Windom and then engaged in the milk business at the same place, being thus engaged for a year, after which he resumed farming and for a year farmed in Dale township and a year in Storden township, after which, in 1909, he rented his present tract of one thousand acres in Amboy township and has ever since been operating that great place, long having been regarded as one of the most extensive farmers and stockmen in this part of the state. Mr. Swain is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local affairs, at present serving as township assessor.



In November, 1890, W. S. Swain was united in marriage to Sarah Williams, daughter of W. B. and Jane (Allen) Williams, of Windom, and to this union five children have been born, Herbert, Leon, Grace, Lester and Lucy. The Swain family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in all movements having to do with the promotion of the common welfare hereabout. Mr. Swain is a member of the Windom lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Mutual Benefit Association and of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of all these organizations.

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### RUDOLF HOFSTAD.

Rudolf Hofstad, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Storden, and for many years actively identified with the work of developing the community in which he lives, is a native of Norway, born in Helgoland, October 14, 1853, son of Peter and Marie (Lund) Hofstad, natives of that same country, who spent all their lives there. Peter Hofstad was a farmer and a sailor. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Johannes, Hans (deceased), Morton, Jacob (deceased), Peter, Knute (deceased), and Ole (deceased).

Upon completing his studies in the high school in his home country, Rudolf Hofstad began farming and has continued farming ever since. He married in 1879 and three years later, in 1882, came to this country, proceeding directly to Minnesota and settling on a farm in Grenville county, where he lived for three years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he moved to this part of the state and located on his present farm in Storden township, Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since. Mr. Hofstad is an excellent farmer and has increased his original holdings there to two hundred and forty acres. He has erected all the buildings on the place and has brought the same to a high state of cultivation, long having been accounted one of the leading farmers in that part of the county. Mr. Hofstad is an ardent Prohibitionist and has done much in his community to advance the anti-saloon cause thereabout.

In 1879 Rudolf Hofstad was united in marriage, in Norway, to Anna Paulson. To that union five children have been born, Mary, Anna, Peter, Jennie and Caleb, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Hofstad are members of the Norwegian Methodist church and for years have taken an active part in promoting the affairs of the same in their neighborhood, as well as participating in all local good works.

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### OLE C. HOYT.

Ole C. Hoyt, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Westbrook, is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in Green county, that state, December 1, 1861, son of Christian Larson and Caste (Gilbertson) Hoyt, natives of Norway, who upon coming to the United States located in Green county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1875, in which year they and their children came to Minnesota, driving through by wagon and settling in Cottonwood county. Upon coming out here Christian L. Hoyt bought a farm in section 34, Ann township, established his home there, became one of the useful and substantial pioneers of that section and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in March, 1895. His widow is still living. She is an earnest member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, as was her husband, and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven children, of whom Ole C. was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Christie, Lars, Gilbert, Lena, Randa and Mary; the latter died in infancy.

Ole C. Hoyt was about fourteen years old when his parents came to Minnesota in 1875 and he completed his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his new home in Ann township. As a young man he was engaged for some time "working out" on the farms of neighboring farmers and about 1884 he began farming on his own account in Westbrook township. The following year he took the tenancy of the farm on which he is now living, in section 4, Westbrook township, and after his marriage in 1890 established his home there. In 1897 he bought the place and is now very substantially situated, the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. Hoyt has made all the improvements on his place and has one of the model farms of that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming, he has given con-

siderable attention to the raising of live stock. Mr. Hoyt is a Democrat and gives close attention to local political conditions. He has served as a member of the school board and in other ways has contributed to the public service.

On June 10, 1890, Ole C. Hoyt was united in marriage to Martha Josephina Skow, daughter of Paul and Agnetta (Jensen) Skow, who were the parents of eleven children, of whom Mrs. Hoyt is the eldest, the others being Mary, Emma, Bertha, Oscar, Dinah, Amanda, Martin, Edwin, Agnes and Pearl. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt ten children have been born, Ella, Joseph and Alfred (twins), Arthur, Willie, Henry, Helen, Clarence, Myrtle and Arnold. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Hoyt is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### EDWARD F. SCHMOTZER.

Edward F. Schmotzer was born in Dale township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, November 27, 1884. He is a son of John and Rose (Muller) Schmotzer. His father was born in Germany in 1843 and his mother in Switzerland.

The father came to America in 1866 and located first in Indiana. In 1870 he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Dale township. With the exception of four years he lived on this land and made this his home until his death, which occurred on February 16, 1910. His first wife died in 1889. The children of this family were: Henry, who died young; Rose, who died at the age of six; Edward F., and Louis, who died young. His second wife was Dora Gundel. She was the mother of four children: Minnie, Louis, Harry, Walter. The family were members of the Lutheran church.

Edward F. Schmotzer was educated in the public schools of Dale township. In 1901 he started to farming for himself on a farm in Dale township. He continued to farm there until the spring of 1911, when he sold out and moved to Jeffers, where he lived for about two years; then lived in Comfrey, Minnesota, for a year. In October, 1913, he bought the *Jeffers Review* newspaper plant, and moved back to Jeffers and assumed charge of the paper. He has since been the publisher of this paper.



EDWARD F. SCHMOTZER.





Mr. Schmotzer was married on October 1, 1899, to Emma Whiteman, daughter of George Whiteman, of Hampton, Iowa. To this union seven children have been born: Wilbert, Alice, Orval, Beryl, Leonard and Leona (twins) and Erma. Leona died on March 19, 1915.

Mr. Schmotzer is independent in political faith and votes for the candidate whom he considers the best man for the place, and not because he belongs to this or that political party. His fraternal association is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He conducts his paper on strictly non-partisan lines, advocating the interests of the public first and always. He uses his publication for the common interests of the people in this community, fearlessly upholding the common cause, and never lending its columns to the sordid ambition of any man or set of men. He owns three hundred and forty acres of unimproved land in northern Minnesota.

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#### AUGUST FREDRICKSON.

August Fredrickson, assessor of Storden township, Cottonwood county, former chairman of the board of supervisors of that township and for years one of the best-known farmers of that part of the county, is a native of Sweden, born on September 17, 1865, son of Capt. Frederick and Ellen (Peterson) Nelson, natives of that same country, both now deceased, who were the parents of four children, of whom August is now the only survivor, the others having been as follow: Carl G., who died at the age of twenty-eight; Emma, who died at twenty-six, and Hulda, who died at twenty-five. Captain Nelson was the owner of a merchant vessel engaged in the coasting trade in Sweden. He died in 1884. His wife had preceded him to the grave about two years, her death having occurred in 1882.

After completing one year in the high school in his native town, August Fredrickson took to the sea and for a couple of years was engaged as a sailor on his father's vessel, after which he was for a year engaged as a sailor on another merchant vessel. In 1882, being seventeen years of age, he came to the United States and proceeded to Minnesota, locating in Storden township, Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since. He married in 1889 and the next year established his home on the farm of one hundred and twenty acres he now owns in Storden township and where he ever since has resided. He has improved his farm in excellent shape

and has the same under profitable cultivation. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Fredrickson has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. He is a Democrat and for years has given close attention to local political affairs. For years he served as chairman of the board of supervisors of his home township and is now serving in the important capacity of township assessor.

In 1889 August Fredrickson was united in marriage to Fredericka Persson and to this union six children have been born: Carl, who is deceased; Ellen, Axel, Elmer, Amelia and Amanda. Carl was twenty-five years old and was a telegraph operator at Milton, North Dakota, when he was drowned while bathing. Mr. and Mrs. Fredrickson are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, Mr. Fredrickson having served as trustee and as treasurer of the church.

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### CORNELIUS GOERTZEN.

Cornelius Goertzen, a well-known farmer of Cottonwood county, supervisor of Dale township and secretary of the Farmers Elevator Company at Carson, is a native of Russia, born on November 24, 1868, son of Jacob and Marie (Williams) Goertzen, who later came to this country and became pioneers of this section of Minnesota.

Jacob Goertzen was born in Germany, but when a boy moved with his parents to the southern part of Russia, where he grew to manhood and where he married Anna Loewens, to which union five children were born, two of whom, David and Henry, came to the United States, the others remaining in Russia. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Jacob Goertzen married Marie Williams and after a continued residence of ten or fifteen years in Russia came to the United States with his family, in 1878, and proceeded directly to this section of Minnesota, arriving at Mountain Lake on July 6, that year. Upon arriving here Jacob Goertzen bought the partly improved southwest quarter of section 7, in Carson township, and during the first year of his residence there built a new house. He later purchased a nearby tract of one hundred and twenty acres and was engaged the rest of his life in the cultivation of these farms. In addition to his general farming he went in heavily for the raising of cattle and sheep and did quite well in his operation, becoming one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. His death occurred on September 17, 1888, he then being seventy-

three years, one month and sixteen days of age. His widow survived him until August, 1904, she being sixty-eight years old at the time of her death. They were the parents of seven children, John J., who is the present postmaster at Bingham Lake; Abraham J., a farmer of Dale township; Justina, wife of William Ewert, of Bingham Lake; Cornelius, the subject of this review; Isaac J., a farmer of Saskatchewan, Canada; Frank, a farmer living in Manitoba, Canada, and Dietrich, clerk in a store at Saskatchewan.

Cornelius Goertzen was about ten years of age when he came to this country in 1878 with his parents. He had received about three years of schooling in the government schools of his native land, and upon his arrival here, was placed in the German schools, but after an attendance of four months there was transferred to the public schools and there continued, diligent in his studies, for four terms. He was not yet twenty years old when his father died, and for a year thereafter, or until his marriage in the fall of 1889, he remained at the old home. Previous to his marriage he had purchased a quarter section of improved land in Dale township, the farm on which he is now living, and after his marriage began housekeeping in the house which then stood on that place. Eight years later he erected his present commodious two-story, modern residence on the place and he and his family are there comfortably situated. Since then he has also built a substantial new barn and in 1914 erected the first cement block silo in the vicinity of Delft. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of cattle and has done well in his operations along this line. He has purchased more land from time to time and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, all of which, save fifty acres, which he rents out, he farms himself. Mr. Goertzen is a Republican, and has for years given careful attention to local political affairs. For several years he was clerk of school district 77, and for the past ten years has served in the capacity of township supervisor. He has also given proper attention to various semi-local business enterprises and is secretary of the Farmers Elevator Company at Carson, and a stockholder in the local creamery company at that place. He and his wife are members of the Mennonite church, and take a proper interest in the affairs of that organization.

On October 24, 1889, Cornelius Goertzen was united in marriage to Katherina Dick, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Mary, who died in youth; Katie Dora, who married David Walter Peterson, the butter-maker at the creamery at Delft, and Cornelius Oliver, Dietrich Jacob, Nicholas Edward and Anna Olga, who are at home with their parents.



## JOHN H. FAST.

John H. Fast, a well-to-do farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake and actively identified with the rapidly developing interests of that part of the county, is a native son of Cottonwood county, born on a farm in Midway township, March 15, 1880, son of the Rev. Henry and Mary (Hamm) Fast, prominent and influential residents of that community, who now live in the village of Mountain Lake.

The Rev. Henry Fast, one of the best-known ministers of the Mennonite faith in Minnesota, is a native of southern Russia, born on August 28, 1849, son of John and Sarah (Peters) Fast, natives of that same country, who came to the United States with their family in 1875, and in August of that year settled in Cottonwood county, becoming influential members of the considerable Mennonite colony that even then had gathered hereabout. John Fast homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Midway township, bought an adjoining quarter and there established his home, but did not live to realize the hopes he had built up in connection with his coming to the new country, his death occurring in the December following his arrival here, he then being sixty-six years of age. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on July 4, 1908, she then being seventy-nine years of age. They were the parents of six children, Henry, Sarah, Gerhart, Herman, Elizabeth (deceased) and Agatha (deceased). By a previous marriage John Fast was the father of five children, Anna, John, Lena, Katherine and David, all of whom are dead save Lena.

Henry Fast was twenty-six years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents and the other members of the family. He had received an excellent education in his native land and had studied with particular reference to entering the gospel ministry in the service of the Mennonite church. When his father died he bought the home place of three hundred and twenty acres and upon his marriage, in 1876, the year after his arrival here, established his home there, continuing to make that his place of residence for thirty-six years, or until 1910, when he and his wife moved to Mountain Lake, where they now live. The Rev. Henry Fast was ordained a minister of the Mennonite church in 1877, two years after locating in Minnesota, and ever since then has been an active and influential minister of that faith, being known widely throughout that connection in Minnesota and the Dakotas, now pastor of the church at Mountain Lake. He also has been a farmer

and before his retirement from the farm had brought his place in Midway township up to a high state of development.

In 1876 Rev. Henry Fast was united in marriage to Mary Hamm, who also was born in southern Russia, April 25, 1853, daughter of David and Mary (Eitzen) Hamm, earnest Mennonites, who also had come to Minnesota in 1875 and settled in Cottonwood county. David Hamm bought a quarter of a section of land in Midway township, and there he established his home and spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 29, 1891, at the age of seventy-three years. His widow survived him but a year, her death occurring in 1892, she then being sixty-three years of age. They were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Fast was the first born, the others being David, Abraham, Anna and Susanna. To Rev. Henry and Mary (Hamm) Fast ten children have been born, namely: Sarah, born in 1877; Mary, 1878; John H., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; David, born in 1881; Henry, 1885; Helena, 1885, now deceased; Gerhard, 1887, also deceased; Gerhard, second, 1889; Elizabeth, 1891, deceased, and Abraham, who died in infancy.

John H. Fast was reared on the paternal farm in Midway township, receiving his schooling in the public schools, and remained at home to assist his father in the work of developing and improving the home place, until after he had attained his majority, when, in 1902, he went to North Dakota and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Billings county and proceeded to "prove up." The next year he married a daughter of one of the pioneer families of that section and established his home on his homestead place, continuing to make his home there until 1910, in which year he sold out to advantage and returned to his old home in Cottonwood county. Upon returning here, Mr. Fast bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres in sections 17 and 18 of Midway township, and there has made his home ever since, being now regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. He has added quite materially to the improvements that were on the place and has brought the farm up to a high state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade stock and has done very well. Mr. Fast gives proper attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as a member of the local school board.

On June 25, 1903, John H. Fast was united in marriage to Helena Schmidt, who was born in that state on March 8, 1880, daughter of John and Elsie (Schultz) Schmidt, pioneers of Billings county, both of whom died in 1891, she in October and he in the following December, and to this union

eight children have been born, as follow: Henry, born on May 14, 1904, who died in infancy; Mary, May 28, 1905, who died on June 8, of that same year; Henry, September 28, 1906; Mary, March 15, 1908; Lena, November 14, 1909; Sarah, July 8, 1911; John, March 31, 1913, who died in infancy, and Elsie, December 18, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Fast are members of the Menonite church and give proper attention to the various beneficences of the same, as well as to all local good works and are doing well their part in the community in which they live.

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### E. O. FESTER.

E. O. Fester, former chairman of the board of supervisors of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, and one of the most substantial farmers of that township, is a native of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was eighteen years old. He was born on July 18, 1875, son of Olai and Juditte (Ericksen) Fester, who were the parents of two sons, E. O. and Johan. The mother of these sons died and Olai Fester married Karen Carlson, to which union four children were born, Olaf, Carl, Juditte and Henrika.

Olai Fester was a fisherman in his native land and his eldest son, E. O. Fester, was reared to that calling, which he followed until he was eighteen years of age, when, in 1893, he came to Minnesota and located at Lamberton. For about two years thereafter he worked at various occupations there and in that vicinity, his principal occupation, however, being farming, and in the fall of 1897, following his marriage, bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he is now living in section 27 of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, and has since made his home there. Mr. Fester set about the improvement and cultivation of his place in up-to-date fashion and has one of the best-improved and most profitably cultivated farms in that section. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to stock raising. In his political views, Mr. Fester is a Republican and has given close attention to political affairs since he came to this country. For ten years he served his home township as a member of the board of supervisors and for three years was chairman of that board, while in other ways he has ever done the part of a good citizen in the advancement of the interests of the community in which he lives.

In 1897 E. O. Fester was united in marriage to Amelia Jensen, and to



this union nine children have been born, Olaf, Mabel, Hilda, Harold, Alfred, Elmer Joseph, Agnes and Juditte. Mr. and Mrs. Fester are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in the general beneficences of which they take an active interest, Mr. Fester having been for six or seven years a member of the board of trustees of the church, and they also are concerned in all movements having to do with the betterment of conditions in the community in which they live.

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### G. T. NATTERSTAD.

G. T. Natterstad, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Storden, is a native of Norway, born on March 21, 1869, son of Tommaes and Martha (Hjalmeland) Natterstad, natives of that same country and the parents of five children, of whom G. T. was the third in order of birth, the others being Belle, Johannes, Mary and Knute. Tommaes Natterstad is a farmer and is still living in his native land.

After completing the course in the public schools of his native land, G. T. Natterstad took up farming and also served a term in the army, his military service being completed in 1892. The next year, he then being twenty-three years of age, he came to the United States and located in Ida county, Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1895, when he came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county, where he has made his home ever since. For two years after coming here, Mr. Natterstad worked on a farm in Amo township and then for three years worked at Windom. He then, in the fall of 1908, bought the quarter section on which he is now living, in Storden township, and ever since has made his home there. The farm is well improved and profitably cultivated and Mr. Natterstad is looked upon as one of the substantial citizens of that community. He and his family have a pleasant home and are comfortably situated.

It was in 1905, about ten years after coming to Minnesota, that G. T. Natterstad was united in marriage to Anna Vang and to this union four children have been born, Martha, Elsie, Johann and Gerda. Mr. and Mrs. Natterstad are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a warm interest in the general affairs of the same, being helpful in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Natterstad is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

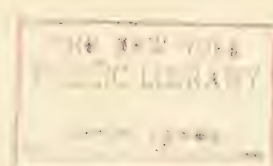


## JOHN G. GRANT.

John G. Grant, one of the best-known farmers in Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm in Lakeside township, is a native son of that county and has lived there all his life. He was born on the farm on which he now lives, March 12, 1880, son of J. F. and Mary (Geddes) Grant, early settlers of this part of the state.

J. F. Grant is a native of Canada, born in the province of Ontario, September 11, 1845, and became one of the pioneers of this section of Minnesota, having been one of the men who organized the government of Cottonwood county. It was in 1869 that he came out here. Upon locating here he filed on a homestead tract in what later became Carson township and shortly afterward traded that pre-emption claim for a homestead in Lakeside township, where he established his home. He was not only one of the earliest settlers of Cottonwood county, but was one of the most influential in the early days. He was one of the organizers of the county and for many years was a member of the school board, in which capacity he performed an admirable service in behalf of the early schools of the county, also serving for some time as county commissioner. He became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Lakeside township and there made his home until 1905, when he moved to Windom, where he lived until 1911, in which year he disposed of his interests in that city and moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he and his wife are now living in comfortable retirement. J. F. Grant has been thrice married. His first wife, who was Emma Greenfield, died many years ago, leaving one child, a daughter, Emma, who married J. E. Frost. Mr. Grant then married Mary Geddes, who was born at Albany, New York, in 1854, and to this union six children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being George W., Charles F., James A., Fred R. and Mary A. Mrs. Mary (Geddes) Grant died on November 2, 1902, and Mr. Grant later married Mrs. Hermena Schroader, which union has been without issue. Mr. Grant is a member of the Presbyterian church; Mrs. Grant is a Baptist.

John G. Grant was reared on the paternal farm in Lakeside township, receiving his elementary education in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by a course in the schools at Windom, after which he taught school for one term and later attended the Minnesota State Agricultural School, from which he was graduated in 1903.





MR. AND MRS. JOHN G. GRANT.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN G. GRANT.





He then returned to the home farm and began farming on his own account. The next year, in 1904, he married and established his home on the old home farm, where he ever since has made his home, and which he bought in 1910. He has there an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Grant has given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred Holstein dairy cattle and has a fine herd. He takes an active interest in local civic affairs and for years has occupied the position of school treasurer.

It was on May 25, 1904, that John G. Grant was united in marriage to Stella Lampson, who was born on May 1, 1881, and who was graduated from the State Agricultural School in 1904, and to this union two children have been born, Melburn C., born on July 26, 1906, and Lois Marie, October 24, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Grant are members of the Baptist church at Windom and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works of the community. Mr. Grant is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of that popular organization takes a warm interest.

Mrs. Grant is a daughter of Jonas T. and Eliza J. (Park) Lampson, both natives of Ohio. Both moved to Kansas in an early day and married there, later came to Minnesota in 1893, lived there until 1901, when they moved to Missouri. Mr. Lampson is a veteran of the Civil War, served four years in the Seventh Ohio Cavalry, in the Western army, and was with General Sherman on the march to the sea. He had three children: Frank L., Emma (deceased), and Stella. He and his son, Frank, are in the mercantile business in Lampson, Wisconsin.

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### ALBERT GRUNENWALD.

Albert Grunenwald, a well-to-do farmer of Dale township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres on rural route No. 5, out of Windom, and connected with various business enterprises throughout that part of the county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of the United States since he was sixteen years of age. He was born on May 17, 1877, son of William and Wilhelmina Grunenwald, who later came to Minnesota and became settlers in Cottonwood county.

William Grunenwald, a native of Germany, was reared as a farmer and remained thus engaged throughout his life. During the Franco-Prussian

War he served as a soldier in the German army and later became a farmer on a large estate. In 1893 he came to the United States with his family and settled in Lincoln township, Buena Vista county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for six years, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota, bought the northeast quarter of section 32, in Dale township, Cottonwood county, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1907, being sixty-three years of age. His widow is still living. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Albert was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Ernest, a farmer, of Dale township; William, a farmer of Germantown township; Frank, who died in infancy; Fred, now living in Murray county, this state, farming, who married and has three children; Augusta, who married Chris Richter, a building contractor, of Storm Lake, Iowa, and his six children; Anna, who married Edward Nitzke, a hardware merchant, also living at Storm Lake, Iowa, and Bertha, who married Maurice Thompson, a farmer of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county.

Albert Grunenwald was about sixteen years old when he came to this country with his parents in 1893. He had received excellent schooling in the government schools of his native land, but after locating in Iowa attended the local school in the neighborhood of his new home there awhile. In Iowa he worked on neighboring farms and was thus engaged until 1898, in which year he and his elder brother, Ernest, came to Minnesota, locating in Cottonwood county, where they rented the old Charles Dick farm of three hundred acres. The next year, when his father came out here and bought in Dale township, he rented his father's new place and farmed the same for a year, after which he rented another farm of three hundred and twenty acres and farmed that for a year. In spring, 1901, he bought a quarter of a section in section 29, Dale township, and proceeded to improve the same. For a time he continued to make his home with his parents and then built a house on his place, after which he "bached" there until his marriage, in the spring of 1903, when he begun housekeeping right and has ever since made his home there. Mr. Grunenwald has improved his farm in fine shape and is doing well in his operations. Among the other improvements on his place is a nice grove, which he planted upon taking possession of the same and which adds much to the attractiveness of the place. Mr. Grunenwald has added to his farm holdings until now he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood. He also is interested in other enterprises and holds stock in the Carson Farmers' Elevator Company, in the Windom Co-operative Elevator

Company and in the Rural Telephone Company at Dale. He is an "independent" Republican and has served as constable and as treasurer of his school district.

On March 5, 1903, Albert Grunenwald was united in marriage to Anna Pelz, and to this union six children have been born, Anna, Paul, Herman, Myrtle, Mabel and Gladys, all of whom are living, save Paul, who died when five years old. Mr. and Mrs. Grunenwald are members of the German Lutheran church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all local good works, Mr. Grunenwald for some time having been a member of the official board of the church.

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### OLE OSLAND.

Ole Osland, chairman of the board of county commissioners of Cottonwood county and one of the best-known residents of that county, a well-to-do farmer of Storden township, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Jeffers and Storden and for many years identified with the development of this community, is a native of Norway, born in the seaport town of Stavanger, in the stift of Christiansand, capital of the amt, on the Stavanger-Fiord, an inlet from the North Sea, one hundred miles south of Bergen, April 23, 1866, son of Ole and Else (Okland) Osland, the former, an official of the municipal court at Stavanger, is still living and the latter has been dead some years. They were the parents of four children, of whom Ole is the eldest, the others being Julius, Bertha and Marie.

In 1884, shortly after his graduation from the high school at Stavanger, Ole Osland came to the United States, proceeding directly to Minnesota to join his maternal grandfather, Jens Okland, a pioneer of Cottonwood county, who had settled in Storden township some years before, and he ever since has been living on the old Okland homestead farm, of which he has been the owner since 1887. At that time the place consisted of but eighty acres, but Mr. Osland has increased the same to one hundred and twenty acres and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. His farm is well improved and his operations are carried on in an up-to-date manner that marks him as one of the progressive farmers of the county.



Mr. Osland is a Republican and ever since his arrival in Minnesota, has given his earnest attention to local political and civic affairs. For eighteen years he was clerk of the township and for many years has served as clerk of the school board, in which capacity he has done much in behalf of the cause of education in his district. In 1908 Mr. Osland was elected a member of the board of county commissioners from his district and has been continuously re-elected since that time. His services on the board have proved of large value to the county and since 1915 he has been serving as chairman of the board.

In November, 1890, Ole Osland was united in marriage to Carrie Holman, daughter of Peter Holman, and to this union ten children have been born, Oscar, Petra, Amanda, Emma, Minnie, Juliet, Frances, Arthur, Carl and Selmer. Mr. and Mrs. Osland are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and have long taken an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, and are looked upon as among the leaders in movements designed to advance the common interest.

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#### MATHIAS OLSON.

Mathias Olson, well-known merchant at Madelia, for many years one of the leaders in the commercial life of that thriving city, former member of the city council and in other ways deeply interested in the growth and development of his home town, is a native of Norway, born at Gausdal on May 21, 1846, son of Ole and Anna (Peterson) Torgerson, farming people, natives of Norway, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of seven children, Torger, Jacob, Rena, Amund, Peter, Mathias and Mathia. Ole Torgerson and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Mathias Olson began his commercial career in his native land. Upon completing the course in the government schools he began clerking in a store and for eight years was thus employed, during which time he obtained a thorough grasp of the mercantile business. In 1868 he came to the United States and proceeded to Minnesota, locating at Mankato, where for about two years he worked on the railroad. He then, in 1870, located at Madelia, where he ever since has made his home. For four years after locating at Madelia Mr. Olson was engaged as a clerk in the store of J. N. Cheney, and then, after his marriage in 1874, he formed a partnership with Mr. Bisbee

in the store, which partnership continued for seventeen years, or until 1891, when Mr. Olson bought the Bisbee interest in the store and has since continued the same alone, long having been recognized as one of the leading merchants of Madelia, as he is one of the very oldest in point of continuous mercantile service in this part of the state. Mr. Olson is a Republican and has for many years given his close attention to local political affairs. For some time he served the public as a member of the Madelia city council and also for some time as a member of the school board, in all of his public service giving his most careful thought to the needs of the community and has done much during his long residence in Madelia to promote the general interests of that town.

In 1874 Mathias Olson was united in marriage to Mary Stenerson and to this union have been born eight children, Alfred M., Stella O., Minnie, Hazel and Lydia, and three deceased. The Olsons are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and for years have been accounted as among the leaders in good works in and about Madelia. Mr. Olson has long been active in the affairs of the church with which he is connected and has served the congregation of the same in the capacity of trustee, deacon and secretary.

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### NILS ERICKSON.

Nils Erickson, a well-known and substantial farmer of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, owner of a farm of two hundred and sixty-two acres in that township, is a native of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was nineteen years old. He was born on November 8, 1861, son of Erick and Anna Quam, natives of that same country, both now deceased, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Christie, Thorsen, Erick, Anna and Anna, second.

Nils Erickson's father was a farmer in Norway and he was reared to the life of the farm. When nineteen years old, in the year 1880, he came to Minnesota and located in Cottonwood county. For the first ten years after coming to this state, Mr. Erickson worked on various farms in Cottonwood county and then, in 1891, bought a farm of eighty acres in Westbrook township, and presently added to that an adjoining eighty acres. The year after he bought his farm he married and established his home there. In 1901 he sold one-half of his quarter section and in 1902 bought the farm

of two hundred and sixty-two acres on which he is now living and where he since has made his home. In 1903 he sold the remaining half of his quarter section in Westbrook township and since then has been devoting his time wholly to the cultivation and improvement of his home farm. In 1914 he built his present substantial residence and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Erickson has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well, for ten years or more having paid particular attention to his fine herd of Holsteins. Mr. Erickson is a Republican, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was in 1892 that Nils Erickson was united in marriage to Lina Molberg and to this union four children have been born, Alfred Ingvald, born on January 21, 1895; Ella Louise, November 26, 1896, and Clarence Alvin, January 4, 1903, and an infant, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in church work, Mr. Erickson having served twice as a local delegate to the state conventions of his church, once at Minneapolis and once at St. Paul.

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#### C. W. DAMMANN.

C. W. Dammann, the subject of this sketch, was born in Chicago, Illinois, January 10, 1872. He is a son of Henry and Marie (Waswo) Dammann, the father a native of Neuen, Kirschen, Germany, and the mother, of Kellingkussen, Germany. Henry Dammann came to America in 1866, and located in Chicago, Illinois, where he followed his trade as a tanner. Later he engaged in the manufacture of sausage, following that business from 1882 until about 1887, when he moved to Jackson county, Minnesota. He located on a farm of two hundred and forty acres and engaged in farming. His death occurred about two years later. His widow is still living. There were three children in this family: C. W., Amanda and John.

C. W. Dammann was educated in the public schools of Chicago, and was employed part of the time during his school years as a clerk in a store. He came to Minnesota with his parents and lived at the farm homestead, working on the farm, until 1899, when he went to Jackson, Minnesota, to take a position in a retail store. In 1902 he came to Ormsby and opened up a general merchandise store, and has been in this business at this place since that time. In 1911 he was appointed postmaster of this village and

is now attending to the duties of that office in connection with his other business.

In 1896 C. W. Dammann and Meta Struck were united in marriage. She is the daughter of Christ Struck and wife. To this union three children have been born: Henry, Christian and Willis. Mr. Dammann is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen's lodge, also a Mason.

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### CHRISTIAN ANDERSON.

One cause for emigration is the attraction which another country holds out to the newcomer in various ways. The farmer coming from Denmark to Minnesota expects to become greatly interested in the new methods he will find here in carrying on husbandry, and in learning how to do better work and increase his earning powers. Some such motive induced Christian Anderson, farmer of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, to make the long sea voyage and extended land journey to this country from Denmark, where he was born February 22, 1857. He is a son of Andres and Margaret (Matson) Gertson. These parents were both born in Denmark and there grew up, were married and established their home, the father devoting his active life to farming and died there some time ago, and the mother is still living in the old home. To these parents seven children were born, namely: Mathias, Gerhart, Masena, Marie, Christian, Andres and Jens.

Christian Anderson grew to manhood on the home farm in Denmark, and he received his education in the common schools in his native community. When twenty-five years of age he immigrated to the United States, locating first in Shelby county, Iowa, where he bought land and engaged in farming nine years; then moved to Clay county, that state, where he continued farming until 1901, when he moved to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, locating on a farm in Springfield township, which he rented the first year, then purchased two hundred acres in Great Bend township, on which he still resides, and is engaged in general farming and dairying on an extensive scale. He has made valuable improvements on the place and has a comfortable home and numerous convenient outbuildings.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1886, to Margaret Kroeger, who was born in Germany, and is a daughter of Thomas Kroeger, who immigrated from Germany to Shelby county, Iowa, where he established the future home



of the family. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson the following children were born: Katie, Andrew, Anna, Tora, Mary, Harry, and Christine.

Politically, Mr. Anderson is a Democrat. He is now a member of the school board. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

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### GEORGE W. MATHISEN.

Any man who works on the land, who tills a field and watches the result, gains a real fundamental knowledge of the underlying foundation on which rests all civilization. It makes him a reliable man, a thoughtful man, a reverent man, and, if he experiments wisely, a helpful optimist. One of the well-informed twentieth century agriculturists and horticulturists of Cottonwood county is George W. Mathisen, of Dale township. He was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, in 1860, and is a son of Lars M. and Rocina (Hummel) Mathisen, natives of Norway and Germany, respectively. Christian Mathisen, the grandfather, spent his life in Norway. George Hummel, the maternal grandfather, who was a native of Germany, came to America and died in Wisconsin. The parents of the subject of this sketch came to Wisconsin in 1849 and located in Manitowoc county, where they were married and there spent the rest of their lives, the father reaching the unusual age of ninety-four years. They were among the very early settlers in that part of the Badger state, bought land and owned a good farm. Thirteen children were born to them, namely: Barbara, Louisa, Mathias, Matilda, George W., Augusta, Amelia, Mary, Lewis, William, who died young; Lena, John and an infant son.

George W. Mathisen spent his boyhood on the home farm in Wisconsin and there received his education in the common schools, remaining on the homestead until he was nineteen years of age; then went into the lumber camps for five winters, after which he came to Minnesota, locating in Great Bend township in the spring of 1885, and has farmed in Cottonwood county ever since. He now lives in Dale township, where he owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, moving there from Great Bend township, and this has been his home for the past twenty-four years. He carries on general farming, keeps good Holstein cattle, and is also an extensive fruit and berry grower. Modern methods are employed and his place would indicate that a man of thrift, good taste and intelligence has its management in hand.

Mr. Mathisen was married in 1893 to Lily Brown, who was born in



GEORGE W. MATHISEN AND FAMILY.



West Salem, LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, and is a daughter of Thomas S. Brown, brother of John A. Brown, editor of this work. Thomas Brown was a homesteader in Springfield township, Cottonwood county, coming here about 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Mathisen five children have been born, all living, namely: Sidney, Margaret, May, Marjorie and Lewis.

Mr. Mathisen is a Socialist in politics. He has filled the office of township treasurer and also assessor for many years in Dale township. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is a Lutheran and his wife is inclined toward the Presbyterians. Of the children, Sidney graduated from the Windom high school, taking the four-year course in three years and is now a student in Ames Agricultural School at Iowa. The children of school age are in the district school. Mr. Mathisen is president of the Farmers Club. Mrs. Mathisen is a member of the Degree of Honor, the auxiliary of the United Workmen.

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#### LEROY C. CHURCHILL.

LeRoy C. Churchill, editor and publisher of the *Citizen* at Windom, secretary of the Commercial Club of that city and otherwise actively identified with the rapidly developing interests of this part of the state, is a native of Kansas, born in the city of Iola, that state, February 17, 1873, son and only child of E. S. and Harriet E. (Anthony) Churchill. Upon completing the course in the high school Mr. Churchill took a course in a business college. For years he was connected with the postoffice, both as clerk and postmaster. The *Cottonwood County Citizen* was established at Windom in 1883 and he has been editor and proprietor of the paper since the year 1895. Mr. Churchill is a Republican and his paper ever stands staunchly for the maintenance of the principles of that party and is an ardent advocate of the same throughout the wide field which it weekly covers.

Mr. Churchill ever since locating in Windom has given his earnest and thoughtful attention to local affairs and has been an active factor in the development of the same. He is secretary of the Windom Commercial Club and takes an enthusiastic interest in the affairs of that useful organization. He also is secretary of the Cottonwood County Agricultural Society. He is a substantial business man and is a stockholder in the Union Savings Association of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In the social and fra-



ternal life of his home town Mr. Churchill also takes an active and influential position and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Royal Arcanum, of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

On January 19, 1915, LeRoy C. Churchill was united in marriage, at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to Mabel I. Watts, daughter of Robert and Bertha Watts, of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church affairs, as well as in all local good works, and are regarded as among the leaders in the social and cultural life of their home town.

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#### FERDINAND BONIN.

Ferdinand Bonin, one of Watonwan county's best-known farmers, now living quietly and comfortably retired on a farm in the near vicinity of the city of St. James, a place of four acres, which he bought upon his recent retirement from his farm in Long Lake township, is a native of Germany, born on September 12, 1859, son of Carl and Lena Bonin, the former of whom spent his last days in this country, having come here in 1886, four years after the death of his wife, his death occurring at the home of his son, Ferdinand, in Watonwan county, in 1901, he then being seventy-eight years of age. Carl Bonin and wife were the parents of five children, Fred, John, Herman, Bertha and Ferdinand, of whom Herman and Ferdinand are now the only survivors.

Ferdinand Bonin was reared in Germany, receiving his schooling in the public schools of his native land and was twenty-five years old when he came to this country in 1884. He settled in Illinois, where he married three years later and where he lived, engaged in farming, until he came to Minnesota in 1893 and settled in Watonwan county. Upon his arrival here, Mr. Bonin bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Rosendale township and there he established his home. He prospered in his farming operations and presently bought an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres and still later an "eighty" adjoining, thus giving him a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres. This farm he after awhile sold to advantage and then bought a quarter of a section in Long Lake township, where he lived until his retirement from the farm, when he bought his present pleasant home

within a mile of St. James, where he and his family are now very comfortably situated. Mr. Bonin still owns a good farm in Rosendale township, but rents the same. Mr. Bonin is a Republican and during his residence in Rosendale township served for some time as a member of the school board.

In 1887, about three years after coming to this country, Ferdinand Bonin was united in marriage, in Illinois, to Sophia Koppen, who was born in Germany in 1869, daughter of Ole and Kara Koppen, who came to America in 1883 and settled in Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives, her death occurring in 1906 and his, in 1908. Ole Koppen and wife were the parents of four children, those besides Mrs. Bonin being Oreka (deceased), Mary (deceased) and Lena. To Mr. and Mrs. Bonin ten children have been born, Emma, Elsie, Henry, Martha, Fred, Ida, John, Susie, William and Annie, all of whom are living. The Bonins are members of the German Lutheran church at St. James and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works, willing promoters of all measures designed to advance the general welfare of the community.

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#### CHARLES O. HOFSTROM.

Charles O. Hofstrom, manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Windom and one of the most active and energetic business men of Cottonwood county, is a native of Sweden, but has been a resident of the United States since 1889 and of Windom since 1892. He was born on February 7, 1872, son of John and Anna Hofstrom, also natives of Sweden, substantial farming people, the former of whom was born on January 31, 1846, and the latter, February 12, 1846, who were the parents of two children, sons both, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Gustav, who remained in his native land. John Hofstrom died on September 29, 1879, and his widow survived him until May 10, 1910. He was a son of Isaac August and Marie Christina (Tryckblad) Hofstrom, also farming people, the former of whom was a son of Peter Hofstrom, a farmer and stock buyer in Sweden, born in the year 1786.

Charles O. Hofstrom was about seven years old when his father died. He completed his studies in the government schools of his native land and when seventeen years of age, in 1889, came to the United States, locating at Gowrie, Iowa, in the neighborhood of which place he worked as a farm hand for about three years, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota and

located at Windom, where, and in the vicinity of which place, he has ever since made his home. For a few years after his arrival at Windom, Mr. Hofstrom worked as a farm hand on farms in the vicinity of that town and then engaged in the real-estate business at Windom and was thus engaged until he became connected with the Farmers' Elevator Company at that place in 1910. The next year, 1911, he was promoted to the position of manager of the elevator and has ever since occupied that position, during which time he has done much to advance the interests of the company and establish the reputation of the elevator as one of the leading concerns of its kind in this part of the state. Mr. Hofstrom has a wide acquaintance throughout the region covered by the operations of the Farmers' Elevator Company and takes an active interest in the general business affairs of the community. He is a Democrat and takes a proper interest in local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

On October 12, 1912, Charles O. Hofstrom was united in marriage to Ebba Marie Dahl and to this union two children have been born, Dorothy Christina and George Woodrow. Mr. and Mrs. Hofstrom have a pleasant home at Windom and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Hofstrom is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the encampment of that order and both he and his wife are members of the local lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah, in the affairs of which organizations they take a warm interest. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and gives his thoughtful attention to the affairs of that order.

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### JOHN A. REISDORPH.

John A. Reisdorph, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Springfield township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres on rural route No. 3, out of Windom, is a native of the great Keystone state, born on a farm in McKean county, Pennsylvania, July 15, 1861, son of Silas and Betsy (Hoag) Reisdorph, both of whom were born in the state of New York, and the former of whom later became one of the pioneers of this part of Minnesota and spent his last days at Windom.

Silas Reisdorph was reared on a farm in New York state, where he married and later moved to McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he became



a farmer, later moving to Michigan, in which state he lived until he came to Minnesota in 1866. Upon coming to this state, Silas Reisdorph settled in LeSueur county, where he made his home for five or six years, at the end of which time he moved to Hennepin county, where, in Bloomington township, he bought a farm and there made his home until 1878, in which year he came to this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land in Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he lived until his retirement from the farm in 1908 and removed to Windom, where he died in 1913. Silas Reisdorph had been twice married. His first wife died when their only son, John A., was a small boy. Two children were born to that union, John A. Reisdorph having a sister, Carrie, who married W. D. Seeley. Silas Reisdorph's second wife, who was Frances Dutton, bore him seven children, of whom two, Lloyd and Robert D. Reisdorph, are residents of Cottonwood county.

John A. Reisdorph was little more than five years of age when his father came to Minnesota and was about seventeen when the family settled in Cottonwood county in 1878, hence he may properly be regarded as one of the pioneers of this section of the state. He received his schooling in the schools of LeSueur and Hennepin counties and grew up to the life of the farm. He remained with his father, a valuable assistant in the work of developing the latter's homestead place, until he had reached his majority and then bought a quarter of a section of his own in Springfield township, the place where he is now living, and proceeded to improve and develop the same. Mr. Reisdorph is a good farmer and as he prospered in his farming operations added to his holdings until now he is the owner of an excellent farm of four hundred and eighty acres, on which he has spent about five thousand dollars in improvements. In addition to his general farming Mr. Reisdorph has gone in somewhat extensively for cattle raising and has done very well. He has one hundred or more beef cattle on his place, besides a fine herd of about forty dairy cattle and fourteen or fifteen horses. He raises about one hundred and fifty acres of corn and about the same acreage of small grain annually, the rest of his place being devoted to pasture. Mr. Reisdorph is a Prohibitionist and for years has done what he could do for the advancement of that party's principles hereabout.

On September 22, John A. Reisdorph was united in marriage to Inez Vought, daughter of James C. and Mary A. (Goudy) Vought, prominent pioneer residents of Cottonwood county, and sister of Andrew P. Vought, chairman of the board of supervisors of Springfield township, a well-known farmer of that township, whose activities in that community are further set



out in a sketch relating to him presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, Frances, Delbert and Helen, all of whom are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Reisdorph have a very pleasant home and have ever taken a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of the community. Mr. Reisdorph is a member of the Woodmen of the World and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### T. M. YARGER.

T. M. Yarger, a substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, and the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Storden, is a native of the great Keystone state, born on a farm in Center county, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1851, son of Christian and Sarah Jane Allison (McManigal) Yarger, natives of that same state, who were the parents of ten children, of whom T. M. was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Mary C., Hattie J., James L., Frank R., Ella, William, Julia, Laura J. and Hiram M. In 1865 Christian Yarger moved with his family from Pennsylvania to Illinois, settling on a farm in Stevenson county, in the latter state, where he spent the rest of his life, a substantial and influential farmer. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

T. M. Yarger was about fourteen years old when he moved with his family to Illinois and the schooling which was interrupted when he left Pennsylvania was resumed in the district school in the neighborhood of his new home. He grew up to the life of the farm and presently began farming on his own account in Illinois. He married there in 1884 and continued to make his home in that state until 1889, in which year he moved to Iowa, settling in Osceola county, where he was engaged in farming until 1913, when he disposed of his interests there and came to Minnesota, settling on the farm on which he now lives, in Storden township, Cottonwood county, and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Yarger is the owner of a quarter of a section of fine land, which he has improved in excellent shape and which he is profitably cultivating. Though a resident of that community but a few years he has come to be looked upon as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county and takes an active interest in the general affairs of the neighborhood.

On December 15, 1884, T. M. Yarger was united in marriage, in Stevenson county, Illinois, to Anna Myers and to this union eight children have been born, Mildred, Luther, Edna, Fred, Elmer, Arthur, Sadie and Reuben. Mr. and Mrs. Yarger are members of the Methodist church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all local works, and are earnest promoters of all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout. Mr. Yarger is a Democrat and takes a proper interest in local political affairs.

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### FRANK DEWAR.

A good general farming country is nearly always a desirable locality for the stock man, but it is not everyone who can make a success of the stock buying and shipping business. It seems to take a peculiar innate ability. Frank Dewar of Lewisville, Watonwan county, has the natural qualifications for success as a stock trader and this has been his special line of endeavor for some time. He was born near Rochester, Minnesota, January 1, 1864, and is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Nesbitt) Dewar. The mother was born on the Isle of Man, and the father was born in Canada, removing with his parents to Wisconsin, and later to near Rochester, Minnesota, where he rented a farm about two years, then removed to Antrim township, Watonwan county, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, and there he engaged in farming until retiring from active life, locating in Lewisville, about five years prior to his death. His family consisted of ten children, namely: Frank, Duncan, Elizabeth, Ann, Grace, Fannie, John, Earl, Stella and Lucretia.

Frank Dewar grew up on the home farm, and attended school in a sod school house. He engaged in farming in Antrim township when starting out in life for himself and still owns a good farm there of two hundred and forty acres, which is well improved and on which stands a splendid group of buildings. He removed to the village of Lewisville in the fall of 1914, since which time he has been engaged in buying and shipping live stock.

Mr. Dewar was married December 23, 1888, to Sarah Lewis, a daughter of Thomas Lewis, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Dewar five children have been born, all living at this writing, namely: Archie F., Lena E., Grace, Madge, and Gordon.

Politically, Mr. Dewar is a Democrat. He is now serving as county commissioner. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the family belong to the Christian church.

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### ARTHUR LAWRENCE SCHAFFER.

The permanent prosperity of a nation must rest upon its agriculture. The greatness of the United States rests very largely on its boundless possibilities in this direction. One of the leading farmers of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, is Arthur Lawrence Schaffer, who was born on the farm on which he now lives, in 1883. He is a son of Joseph and Matilda (Mathisen) Schaffer, natives of Germany and of Wisconsin, respectively. The father was thirteen years old when he came to America with his parents, the family locating in Wisconsin, the parents spending the rest of their lives there on a farm. The father of Matilda Mathisen was a native of Norway, and her mother was a native of Germany. They located in Wisconsin and spent the rest of their lives there. The parents of the subject of this sketch were married in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, but went back to Wisconsin, where they continued to reside until 1880, when they returned to Cottonwood county and took up a homestead in Great Bend township, which has been the family farm ever since, the mother still living on the place, but the father passed away in October, 1909. He became owner of a good farm of two hundred and eighty acres. He was active in the affairs of his community, and served as township assessor for twelve or fifteen years, also held the office of school clerk. His widow belongs to the Lutheran church. To these parents six children were born, namely: Arthur Lawrence, the subject of this sketch; Ada, wife of Fred Earlewine; George, Clyde, Mabel, who is the wife of Charles Van Horsen, and Clarence.

Arthur L. Schaffer grew up on the home farm and he received a common school education. He has remained on the home place and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He keeps the place well improved in every respect. He was married in July, 1915, to Gertrude Huntress, of Great Bend township, and a daughter of William Huntress and wife. Mr. Schaffer is the present assessor of Great Bend township and is also treasurer of his school district.

William Harvey Huntress, mentioned above, was a native of New





MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR L. SCHAFER.





York state and a son of William Huntress and wife. He grew up in his native state and was educated there. He came to Minnesota in the eighties, locating at Windom, Cottonwood county, where he married Eleanor Jones, a native of Steele county, this state, from which locality she came with her parents to Cottonwood county. D. B. Jones, the father, was a native of the state of New York, his birth occurring on April 7, 1844, and there he grew up and was educated. When thirteen years old he came with his parents to Steele county, Minnesota, where he resided until May 1, 1870, when he moved to Rice county, this state, remaining there one year, then, in 1871, came to Cottonwood county, taking up a homestead in Great Bend township, on which he lived until the spring of 1916, when he retired and moved to Windom. He is a member of the Methodist church. He has held township offices. William H. Huntress followed carpentering all his active life, being a highly skilled workman. His death occurred at Windom in 1901. His family consisted of four children, namely: Gertrude, Ruby, Bernice and Muriel. After his death, Mrs. Huntress re-married, her last husband being John McKeegan, and they now make their home in northern Minnesota. She is a member of the Methodist church.

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#### IVER I. PEDERSON.

Iver I. Pederson, one of Cottonwood county's best-known and most substantial farmers and stockmen, owner of a fine farm in Ann township and valuable land in Murray county, member of the board of supervisors of his home township and otherwise actively identified with the interests of that part of the county, is a native of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was eight years old. He was born on October 13, 1873, son of Iver and Anna Pladtson (Thorson) Pederson, natives of that same country, who later became residents of Cottonwood county, where the latter is still living.

Iver Pederson was born at Hedalen and owned a farm in the Vaage community. In the summer of 1881 he disposed of his interests there and with his family came to Minnesota, locating at Walnut Grove, in Redwood county, in July of that year. Two years later he moved to Martin county, where he rented a farm for three years, at the end of which time he rented the southwest quarter of section 18 in Ann township, Cottonwood county, where he made his home for four years. He then bought the northwest

quarter of that same section and there established his home. He improved the farm in excellent shape and there spent the rest of his life. As he prospered he bought more land and became a very substantial citizen. He later sold the most of his holdings, however, and at the time of his death his land interests were represented by but eighty acres. He died on September 2, 1912, and his widow is still living. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom Iver I. was the ninth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary and Anna, twins; the former married John Hopstad and lives in Grant county, this state, and the latter, now deceased, married Hans Amodeth and also lived in Grant county; Peder, who married Carrie Hanson and is farming in Martin county; Annie, who married Hans Eng, a Martin county farmer; Lena, who is living with her brother, Iver, and family; one who died in infancy; Thor, who died in his early manhood; Mattie, who married Hans Sandbo, of Ann township; Rose, who married Lew Osman and lives with the family of her brother, Iver, and Hannah, who died when one year old.

Iver I. Pederson was about eight years old when his parents came to Minnesota and he received his schooling in the schools of Cottonwood county. At the age of seventeen he started out for himself, in partnership with Ole Kleven, owners of a threshing rig. That partnership was dissolved after three years, but Mr. Pederson has ever since continued to operate a threshing-machine during the seasons and is one of the best-known men in that line in this part of the country. After a few years he became the manager of his father's farm and early began buying land. He prospered in his operations and is now the owner of six hundred and eighty acres in Cottonwood and Murray counties, all of which he operated himself. For some time he has made a specialty of raising hogs and has done very well. His home place is well improved and he and his family are very well situated. Mr. Pederson has given proper attention to local civic affairs and is a member of the board of township supervisors. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in all local good works.

On April 13, 1911, Iver I. Pederson was united in marriage to Lena Johnson, who was born in Ann township, Cottonwood county, daughter of Helge and Gunniel (Kittleston) Johnson, and to this union two children have been born, Myron, born on September 10, 1912, and Virene, March 16, 1915. Mrs. Pederson's parents are pioneers of Cottonwood county and have a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres in Ann township, where they settled in homestead days, Helge Johnson having homesteaded a quar-

ter section there in 1873. He was born in Norway on October 22, 1850, son of John and Ann Helgeson, whose last days were spent in the home of their son, Helge, in Cottonwood county. It was in 1872 that Helge Johnson came to Minnesota from Norway. For a year he worked in Kandiyohi county and then entered a claim to a homestead in Cottonwood county, where, after his marriage to Gunniel Kettleson, he established his home and has lived ever since, one of the most substantial and influential men in that section. To him and his wife eight children have been born, of whom Mrs. Pederson was the fourth in order of birth, the others being John, Anna, Julius, Regina, Maria, Carl and Henry, all of whom are living save John, who died in his young manhood.

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### SAMUEL PAULSON.

Samuel Paulson, a well-to-do farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres situated four miles north and two miles west of the town of Madelia, is a native of Norway, but has lived in Minnesota since he was six years old and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development and progress of this part of the country during the past generation. He was born on October 1, 1856, son of Tarson and Christiana (Samuelson) Paulson, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1862 and proceeded to Minnesota, becoming pioneers of the neighboring county of Brown.

Tarson Paulson homesteaded a farm in the southern part of Brown county, within sight of the farm of the subject of this sketch, and there established his home. To his original homestead of eighty acres he gradually added by purchase until he became the owner of a farm of two hundred acres and was recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that section. There he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1911, he then being eighty-eight years of age. He was active in church work and his children were reared in the Norwegian Lutheran faith. Tarson Paulson was twice married. To his first marriage four children were born, Peter, Samuel, Anna and Christina. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Paulson married Mrs. Johanna Mikleson, a widow, who had two children, Knute and Gilbert, by her first marriage, and to this second union nine children were born, Carl, Jergenna, John, Alfred, Samuel, Julius, Gena, Lena and Lettie.



Samuel Paulson was about six years old when his parents came to this country from Norway in 1862 and he was reared on the homestead farm in Brown county, this state, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and proving a valuable assistant to his father in the work of developing and improving the farm. In 1885 he married and immediately afterward settled on the farm on which he now lives, over the county line from his old home and within sight of the latter, and there he has lived ever since, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that section of Watonwan county. Mr. Paulson has an excellent farm of two hundred and twenty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated, and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Upon taking possession of the farm he planted many trees, cottonwood, willow, box-elder and ash, which now add wonderfully to the attractiveness of the place. In 1902 Mr. Paulson built his present house and some years before, in 1898, had built a commodious barn. The other farm buildings are in keeping with the same and all bespeak the progressive methods of the owner.

In December, 1885, Samuel Paulson was united in marriage to Ida Johnson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Christopher Johnson and wife, who became pioneers of Brown county, this state, and to this union eight children have been born, Christine, Carl, Emma, Sigward, Tolef, Joseph, Lillian and Kenneth. The Paulsons are earnest members of the Lutheran church and take an active interest in all local good works and in the general social activities of their neighborhood.

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#### OLSON & DEGONDA.

There were few better-known firm names in the bustling business life of the thriving little city of St. James than that of Olson & DeGonda, former proprietors of the leading restaurant in that city. Hilmer J. Olson and Anthony P. DeGonda, both energetic and enterprising young men, conducted for the benefit of the people of St. James and the surrounding country an up-to-date and well-equipped eating place, which kept open night and day, and in addition to which they carried a full line of confectionery and cigars and maintained a first-class soda-water fountain. They are brothers-in-law, Mr. Olson having married a sister of Mr. DeGonda, and succeeded to the restaurant business established in St. James by the latter's father, John C. DeGonda, who now again owns the business.

Hilmer J. Olson was born at St. Paul, this state, July 21, 1890, son of John W. and Caroline (Johnson) Olson, both natives of Sweden, the former born in 1860 and the latter in 1859, who came to this country in 1887, locating at St. Paul, where Mr. Olson has ever since been employed as yardmaster for the St. Paul Flour and Feed Company. John W. Olson and wife are the parents of five children, Hilmer J., Frank, Rudolph, Harry and Russell. Hilmer J. Olson obtained his schooling in the public schools of St. Paul and in 1911 went to Duluth, where for two years he was engaged as weighmaster for the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad Company. He then went to St. James, where he began working in the restaurant of John C. DeGonda, whose daughter, Anna, he married in June of that year, and was thus engaged until in July, 1914, when he and his brother-in-law, Anthony P. DeGonda bought the restaurant from the elder DeGonda and conducted same under the firm name of Olson & DeGonda. On June 25, 1913, Hilmer J. Olson was united in marriage to Anna DeGonda, sister of his business partner, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Donald R., born on August 27, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

Anthony P. DeGonda is a native son of Minnesota, born in LeSueur county, April 3, 1895, son of John C. and Mary DeGonda, both natives of the republic of Switzerland, the former born in 1860 and the latter of 1869, who are now living at St. James. John C. DeGonda was but six years of age when he came to the United States with his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary (Muckley) DeGonda, in 1866, his father having died in the old country in 1865. Mrs. DeGonda established her home in LeSueur county, this state, and there spent the rest of her life, her death occurring in 1890. John C. DeGonda was reared in that county and grew up to the life of the farm, becoming a farmer by occupation and thus continued until he came to this part of the state in 1900 and settled at Madelia, where he remained until his removal in 1912 to St. James, where he engaged in the restaurant business and was thus engaged until he sold his place to Olson & DeGonda, in July, 1914. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and their children have been reared in that faith. There are four of these children, Anna M., who married Hilmer J. Olson; Mamie, who married Fred Miller; Anthony P. and Louise. Anthony P. DeGonda was about five years old when his parents moved to Madelia and there he received his education and in St. Mary's Seminary at Winona, Minnesota. Upon removing to St. James in 1912 he became actively associated with his father in the

restaurant business and has been thus engaged ever since, with a proprietary interest since July, 1914, when he and Mr. Olson assumed the ownership, which they subsequently passed over to the present owner, J. C. DeGonda.

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### PERRY M. JENCKS.

Farmers as a class are intelligent, industrious and economical, and many of them are men of good business judgment. Perry M. Jencks, one of the successful farmers of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, was born at Evansville, Wisconsin, November 5, 1873. He is a son of Monroe and Ella (Martin) Jencks, natives of New York state and Wisconsin, respectively. The father came to Wisconsin when young, married there and spent the rest of his life on a farm in that state and in Iowa, dying in the latter state. His widow now resides in Windom, Minnesota. Eleven children were born to these parents, named as follow: Eva, Sidney, who died when young; Ida, Perry, Orlo, Warren, Rosa, who died young; Ira, Louis, Cyril and Florence.

Perry M. Jencks grew up on the home farm in Wisconsin and there he received a common-school education. He began farming for himself in Iowa, to which state he moved with his parents. In the fall of 1900 he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and purchased his present farm in Great Bend township, and here he has since made his home. The place consists of eighty acres. He has made many improvements here, putting up all the buildings, except the dwelling. The place is known as "Rose Bud Dairy Farm." In connection with general farming he conducts a dairy, milking on an average, ten cows; also, he raises full-blood Duroc-Jersey hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Jencks was married in October, 1894, to Nettie Wheaton, of Iowa, a daughter of George A. Wheaton and wife. To this union four children have been born, namely: Maude, Hazel, an infant, who died, and Opal.

Politically, Mr. Jencks is a Republican. He has served as a member of the district school board for some time, being still a member of the same, and he was formerly road overseer here. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are both members of the Rebekahs and the Royal Neighbors. They belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.



## WILLIAM C. BURTON.

William C. Burton, farmer of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, is of that large class of citizens who take delight in nature and cares little for the metropolis. He was born on the farm on which he still resides, May, 1873, and is a son of John O. and Mary J. (Rank) Burton. They were both natives of Indiana, the mother born near Rochester and the father in the southern part of the state. He was a soldier in the Civil War, after which he went to Rice county, Minnesota, where he spent about one year, then came to Cottonwood county, about 1869, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, a part of the place on which his son William C., still lives on. John O. Burton developed a good farm and lived here until the spring of 1881, when he went to Duluth and engaged in railroad work until 1900. He was a locomotive engineer, but he finally left the road and turned his attention to farming again. Returning to Indiana, he died there in 1909. His wife preceded him to the grave in November, 1895, in Duluth. Their family consisted of four children, namely: William C., Omer E., who is a locomotive engineer; A. Jay, also a locomotive engineer, was killed in a wreck, and Frank A., who is division storekeeper of the Northern Pacific railroad, and lives in Jamestown, North Dakota. John O. Burton, the father, owned one-half section of land in one body. He was a member of the Episcopal church.

William C. Burton was educated in the public schools of Cottonwood county and the city of Duluth. After finishing the grades he attended a business college in Duluth, then went into railroad service and was a clerk in the offices of the Northern Pacific at Duluth for eight years, and for twelve years was foreman of the car shops there, his long retention indicating that his services were satisfactory in both capacities. He returned to the old homestead in Cottonwood county in 1914 and has since successfully operated five hundred and sixty acres, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale.

Mr. Burton was married on August 9, 1899, to Grace M. Fish of Duluth, a daughter of Francis A. and Elizabeth Fish, and to this union four children have been born, namely: John O., Francis F., William C., Jr., and Grace Anna.

Mr. Burton is a member of the Episcopal church, and he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Arcanum, and the Knights of the Maccabees.



## U. H. PALMER.

U. H. Palmer, for many years a prominent farmer of Watonwan county, now living in retirement in St. James, was born in Broom county, New York, May 2, 1845, son of Urban and Catherine (Boomhour) Palmer, both natives of the state of New York, his birth occurring in 1808, and she was born on July 18, 1809. They grew up and were married in their native state, and in 1848 came west, locating in Green Lake county, Wisconsin. The father was a physician in his earlier career, but in later life was a farmer. He removed from Wisconsin to Iowa, thence to South Dakota, and finally to Mankato, Minnesota, where his death occurred on December 28, 1890. He was a soldier in the Civil War for one year, enlisting in February, 1862, in Company G, Fifth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The mother of the subject of this sketch died in early life, February 4, 1868.

U. H. Palmer was four years old when his parents brought him to Wisconsin. He was educated in the public schools. In February, 1864, he enlisted in Company H, Eighteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served gallantly until the close of the war. He was in the battles of Altoona Pass, Georgia; Ft. McAllister, near Savannah, and others. His regiment was a part of the Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. He was with Sherman on his march from Atlanta to the sea. At Altoona Pass, Georgia, his clothing was literally shot off, thirteen bullets having cut through his clothes, also had the rim of his hat shot off.

After the war, when he had been honorably discharged and mustered out, Mr. Palmer returned to Wisconsin, and in 1873 moved to Olmstead county, Minnesota, where he took charge of a farm of one thousand acres, which he managed for three years, then came to Janesville, this state, where he took charge of the DeGraff farm of two thousand and two hundred acres, operating it for five years. In 1882 he accepted a similar position in Watonwan county, managing the St. James stock farm of sixteen hundred acres. Later he bought one hundred and sixty acres in St. James township, which he sold and bought two hundred and forty acres in South Branch township, then bought one hundred and twenty-seven acres adjoining St. James on the east. He has since sold both these farms, also buying and selling other lands, but it is now living retired from active life.

Politically, Mr. Palmer is an independent voter, and he never aspired to public office. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd



MR. AND MRS. U. H. PALMER.



Fellows, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Palmer was married in Berlin, Wisconsin, in 1868, to Anna E. Eastman, of that place, and to this union seven children were born, named as follow: Mary M., Chester A., Margaret, Clarice E., Cassius (deceased), Maud and Clara. Mr. Palmer married in 1893 for his second wife, Ella Lowe, of Boonville, Missouri. This union has been without issue.

Mr. Palmer is one of a family of seven children, namely: Mary E., born on October 3, 1836; Julia E., July 23, 1838; Franklin G., September 19, 1840; Elizabeth J., March 28, 1843; U. H., of this sketch; Emily M., October 10, 1848, died in 1882; Elbert M., February 27, 1853, died on December 7, 1908.

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#### FRED H. KLARAS.

The wanderlust, like a siren, calls to every youth to forsake his ancestral hills and halls and go out in quest of a better country. Many have heeded the summons to their advantage. In such a state as Minnesota the young man is fortunate who has the sagacity to remain at home. Fred H. Klaras, proprietor of the bottling works at St. James, Watonwan county, has remained within the boundaries of his native state, and is now well established in business.

Mr. Klaras was born in Scott county, Minnesota, June 10, 1874. He is a son of Christopher and Katherine (Schmellen) Klaras, both natives of Germany, in which country they spent their earlier years, but finally immigrated to the United States and located in Scott county, Minnesota, where they remained until 1876, when they removed to St. James, Watonwan county, and here established the permanent home of the family. The mother died here about 1886, but the father is still living, now retired, but for many years he was employed in the local roundhouse, in fact, most of his life has been spent in railroad service. His family consists of the following children: Matthew, Nicholas, Fred H., Lena, Gertrude, and Mary.

Fred H. Klaras received his education in the schools of St. James, his parents removing with him here when he was two years old. When starting out in life for himself he worked about one and one-half years for Joseph J. Sperl in the bottling works at St. James; then, having learned the various details of this business, he bought out his employer and has



since operated the plant with gratifying results, enlarging the business from time to time, until it has reached large proportions. His plant is well equipped with up-to-date appliances and his products find a ready market. He built his present plant, which is located just south of St. James on the eastern outskirts, in 1901. It was formerly within the city limits. He manufactures all kinds of temperance beverages and his plant is known as the St. James Bottling Works. As a side line he is agent for Maxwell and Jeffery automobiles.

Mr. Klaras was married in June, 1899, to Margaret Zender, and their union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Leona, Virginia, Francis, Lucenia, Angella, Andrew, Regis, and Frederick, Jr.

Mr. Klaras and family are members of the Catholic church and he is affiliated with the Foresters.

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#### DAVID A. NICKEL.

David A. Nickel is a native of southern Russia, where he was born, March 11, 1873. He is a son of Abraham Nickel, who was twice married, first to Helen Bowman, second to Maria Ewert, all natives of southern Russia. Abraham Nickel came to America in 1877 and located on a farm near Mountain Lake, Watonwan county, Minnesota. He rented a farm for about nine years and then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Odi township, Watonwan county, where he made his home for the rest of his life. In addition to farming he worked at the carpenter's trade during his residence here. He died on February 26, 1869. His second wife is still living.

Helen (Bowman) Nickel, first wife of Abraham Nickel, was the mother of two children: Helen and Abraham. After her death Mr. Nickel married Maria Ewert, a sister of David Ewert, whose personal sketch appears in another place in this volume. Maria (Ewert) Nickel is the mother of six children: David A., subject of this sketch; William, Jacob, Bernard, Mary and Henry.

David A. Nickel was educated in the public schools of Odin township, Watonwan county. At the age of fifteen years he found employment in an elevator in Bingham Lake, operated by Ewert Brothers, and worked at this place for some time at ten dollars a month. In 1896 he took a position with the Hubert & Palmer Elevator Company, at Bingham Lake, at a salary

of forty-five dollars a month, and continued in that position for about seven years. In July, 1903, he came to Butterfield and took a position as manager of the Farmers' elevator and has been thus engaged since that time.

In 1899 David A. Nickel and Ann Hiebert were united in marriage. Mrs. Nickel is the daughter of D. J. Hiebert, of Bingham Lake. She is the mother of four children: Pearl, Elizabeth, Ruby and Ethel. Mr. and Mrs. Nickel are members of the Mennonite church. Politically, Mr. Nickel is a Republican. He has served as president of the village council of Bingham Lake for four years, and a recorder of the village of Butterfield for two years.

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### OLE L. CHRISTENSON.

The time has arrived when intensive and diversified farming is a necessity. The farmer must now look more to soil fertility; breed better and more live stock. One of the intelligent farmers of Cottonwood county, who realizes that he must employ different methods in his vocation to those employed by former generations, is Ole L. Christenson, who was born in Denmark, May 14, 1856, and is a son of Godfrey Christenson and wife, natives of Denmark, where they grew up and were married. They brought their family to America about 1881, locating in Iowa.

Ole L. Christenson spent his boyhood in his native land, and there attended the common schools. He accompanied his parents to the United States when about twenty-five years of age. He engaged in farm work in Iowa until 1904 when he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, locating in section 28, Great Bend township, on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he still owns. He has added many modern improvements, has enhanced the fertility of the soil and is carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, making a specialty of raising a good grade of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has a pleasant home and numerous convenient outbuildings. Everything about his place denotes thrift and good management.

Mr. Christenson was married in 1886, to Nettie Larson, and to them the following children have been born: Lawrence, Millie, Orvin, Iva, Earl, Fred and Bessie.

Politically, Mr. Christenson is a Republican. He has never been very active in public affairs, and has not sought office; however, he has served as road overseer. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

## MARTIN HENDERSON.

It was a half century ago that the Henderson family arrived in Watonwan county, which was then sparsely settled and little improved, and from that pioneer day to the present time the name has been well known and has stood for good citizenship in every respect.

Martin Henderson, a successful farmer of Long Lake township, formerly spelled his name Hendrickson, but when he filed on his homestead here, the clerk entered the name on the records as Henderson, which name he has since adopted. He was born in Sweden, December 3, 1848, and is a son of Hendrick and Martha (Anderson) Hendrickson, natives of Sweden and Norway, respectively. They came to America in 1852 and located first in Muskego, Wisconsin, where they spent one winter, then moved to Dane county, that state, for one year, then moved to Vernon county, the same state, where they bought a farm and lived until 1866, when they came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, arriving on July 19 on the banks of Kansas lake, locating on the farm where their son, Martin, still lives. They were the first settlers here; however, other families came later that year. The father of the subject of this sketch pre-empted one hundred and twenty-five acres, also bought fifty acres of railroad land. Here he worked hard and had a good farm and a comfortable home, dying on the place just thirty years to a day from the time he reached the land which he selected for his future home. His wife died on June 19 of the following year, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Helen Erickson, in Coon Valley, Vernon county, Wisconsin. To these parents the following children were born: Helena, who is deceased; Olea, who is deceased; Martin, of this sketch; Anna, Kate and Henry. The father of these children helped organize the Kansas Lake Lutheran church, which was effected in his log cabin home. He was an advocate of a free church, not connected with a larger organization.

Martin Henderson grew up on the home farm and assisted his father with the work of the same when a boy. He received excellent educational advantages for those early days, having attended the public schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota and the Curtis Business College of Minneapolis. For fifteen years he was a railroad grading contractor, his first work being in Canada in 1875, later working at various places. He then pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres in Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, but resided on it only long enough to prove it up. He began the active operation of his father's farm in 1892, and is now owner of two hundred



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN HENDERSON.





and thirty acres of valuable and productive land, and his wife owns fifty-five acres nearby. He has kept the land well cultivated and well improved and erected good buildings or remodeled the old as his needs require. He carries on general farming and handles a good deal of live stock from year to year. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers elevator at St. James.

Mr. Henderson was married on August 4, 1883, to Christian Erickson, who was born in Sweden, and is a daughter of Andrew and Kisa (Larson) Erickson, both natives of Sweden. He came to America in 1880, and she came in 1883. They lived for some time in Minneapolis, later moved to a farm in Watonwan county, Minnesota, in 1888. They are both deceased. Their family consisted of the following children: Christina, wife of Mr. Henderson; Matilda, wife of Oscar Pehrson, and Edwin, who died in 1910.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henderson the following children have been born: Henry Walter, Matilda, who is the wife of Louis Boon; Marie and Arthur, the latter deceased; Philip, Ella, Rodger and Thomas.

Politically, Mr. Henderson is Republican. He has never been very active in public affairs, nor cared for office. He and family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### O. C. LANDE.

The elevator at Storden, Cottonwood county, is a paying proposition under the able management of O. C. Lande, who was attracted to this locality on account of its large production of grain, and here he has been contented to remain, fully appreciating the opportunities to be found here.

Mr. Lande was born in Storey county, Iowa, March 4, 1877. He is a son of O. A. and Karen T. (Olson) Lande, both natives of Norway, in which county they spent their earlier years, attended school and were married. They immigrated to America in 1870, and located in Storey county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming, later removing to Palo Alto county, Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life, dying some years ago. The mother is still living on the home place in that county. To these parents the following children were born: Olava, Andrew, Charles and subject, all of whom are still living.

O. C. Lande grew to manhood in Iowa, and there he received his education in the public schools and when old enough assisted his father with the work on the home farm. He started out in life for himself as a farmer,

but later became a grain buyer at Graettinger, Iowa, where he remained two years, then, in 1904, came to Storden, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and became a grain buyer for the St. John's elevator, continuing in that capacity for about two years, then became associated with the Storden Grain Company, and continued buyer for the same until April 1, 1916, with the exception of about a year, from the spring of 1912 to the spring of 1913, when he engaged in general mercantile pursuits at Storden, being a member of the firm of Lande & Jenson.

Mr. Lande was married in 1901, to Christina Paulson, of Graettinger, Iowa. She is a daughter of K. M. Paulson and wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Lande one child has been born, Orval, now about two years old.

Mr. Lande is a member of the Baptist church, and politically he is a Republican. About April 25, 1916, Mr. Lande acquired the ownership of an elevator, situated at the edge of Storden.

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#### ALBERT F. BIEL.

Albert F. Biel, well-known proprietor of the South Side Dairy at St. James, a well-kept place of one hundred and sixty acres at the very edge of that city, is a native of Iowa, born on March 22, 1872, son of Christian and Lena (Crambeer) Biel, natives of Germany, who were married in Iowa and who lived there until the summer of 1872, when they came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county.

Upon locating in Fillmore county, Christian Biel bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he presently sold and then bought another quarter section in the same county, to which he later added an additional quarter section and became a very successful farmer. His wife died in 1912, at the age of fifty-nine years, and he is now living retired at Cresco, Iowa, in his seventy-fifth year. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Albert F. was the second in order of birth, the others being Charles (deceased), Louis, Christian (deceased), John, Herman (deceased), Emil and Alvina.

Albert F. Biel was an infant when his parents came to Minnesota and he was reared on the paternal farm in Fillmore county, obtaining his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. When fourteen years of age he began working on his own account, on neighboring farms, and after awhile bought a well-drilling rig and for a couple of years was

engaged in drilling wells throughout his home county. He married in 1896 and bought a quarter of a section of land in Fillmore county, where he lived for a couple of years, at the end of which time he disposed of his interest there and moved to Pipestone county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land and where he lived for eighteen months, after which he sold out there and moved over into South Dakota. He bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Howard, that state, but shortly afterward sold the same and returned to Pipestone county, this state, where he bought another quarter of a section of land, on which he made his home for seven years. During this latter period he also bought another quarter section over the line in South Dakota, which tract he kept for three years. Mr. Biel then disposed of his interests in Pipestone county and moved to Mower county, where he bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he made his home for four years, at the end of which time he sold out there and moved to St. James, in March, 1913, and bought his present place of one hundred and sixty acres at the southern edge of the city, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Upon entering into possession of that place, Mr. Biel began to give special attention to the dairy department of his farming and the South Side Dairy now supplies a large part of the milk consumed by the people of St. James. In addition to his general farming and dairying operations, Mr. Biel has given considerable attention, at one time and another, to other forms of enterprise and during his residence in South Dakota was a director of the Farmers State Bank and of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Ward. He is a Republican and in various places has served as a member of the school board. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and has served as a member of the board of trustees of the same.

Albert F. Biel has been twice married. It was in 1896, while living in Fillmore county, that he was united in marriage to Ida Erdman, of Wykoff, that county, and to that union two children were born, Clarence and Cora. The mother of these children died in 1900 and in 1901 Mr. Biel married Amanda Wendorf, also of Wykoff, daughter of Fred and Sophia Wendorf, natives of Germany, who came to the United States, settling in Wisconsin, whence they came to Minnesota and settled at Wykoff. Fred Wendorf, who is still living at Wykoff, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, one of the best-known and most influential bankers in that part of the state, was for twenty years postmaster of Wykoff. His wife died years ago. To



Mr. Biel's second marriage five children have been born, Fred, Estella, Irwin, Elmer and Luella. Mr. and Mrs. Biel take a warm interest in the general social and cultural affairs of the community and are helpful in promoting all measures designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### CARL S. KNUDSON.

One of the busy and widely known men of Cottonwood county is Carl S. Knudson of Westbrook. Unlike many of his contemporaries he has found opportunities right at home good enough and has not sought his fortune in distant climes. He was born on the old homestead, one mile north of Westbrook, August 3, 1877. He is a son of Erick and Mary (Sampson) Knudson, both natives of Norway, from which county they came to America in about 1870, locating in Jackson county, Minnesota, where they spent a few years; then moved to Cottonwood county and took up a homestead near Westbrook, on which they located permanently. The father broke and improved this one-fourth section into a valuable farm, experiencing the usual hardships and privations of life on the frontier. Erick Knudson helped shovel snow many times from the front of stalled trains near Windom, in the early days. He finally retired from active life and located in Westbrook, where he and his wife both died about two years later.

At the time of his death Erick Knudson owned about three hundred and twenty acres in his home place and in all, six hundred and forty acres. His family consisted of nine children, six sons and three daughters, namely: Hilda, who married Adolph Peterson, Carl S., the subject of this sketch; Elmer E., Melvin, Selma, who married Bert Johnson; Emma, who married Albert Kleven; Clarence, William and Arthur, all of whom are living. The paternal grandparents lived and died in Norway, the grandfather owning a saw-mill, also probably engaged in farming. The maternal grandparents, Samuel Sampson and wife, also natives of Norway, came to America with the parents of the subject of this sketch, living in Jackson county, later moving to Westbrook township, Cottonwood county and made their home near Erick Knudson and wife, building a house on the farm there. Their children were named as follow: Mary, John and Samuel, all now deceased. Samuel Sampson is still living, but his wife is deceased.

Carl S. Knudson grew up on the home farm and attended the early-day district schools. About 1904 he took charge of the "Rose Hill" farm,



CARL S. KNUDSON.



which he operated until one year after his father's death. Upon the death of the father he bought out the other heirs, but sold the place one year later, in March, 1914, and located in the village of Westbrook, becoming manager of the Westbrook Shipping Association, which position he still holds. He has also been president of the Farmers' elevator and is now director of the same; also a director of the Farmers' Co-operative store, and the Citizens State Bank. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the enterprising citizens of Westbrook. He is an active member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Knudson was married in 1904, to Julia Hanson, a daughter of H. C. Hanson and wife, natives of Norway. This union resulted in the birth of one child, Irene Knudson, born on March 28, 1905. The wife and mother passed away on March 11, 1908. She was a faithful member of the Lutheran church, a devoted and loyal wife and a loving mother, and was mourned by her many friends and relatives.

Mr. Knudson was married for the second time on January 9, 1912, to Lena Rupp, daughter of Fred Rupp and wife, of Rose Hill township, and to this union have been born two girls and one boy, Lila, born on November 9, 1912; Frances, November 6, 1913, and Eric, June 4, 1915.

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### JOHN C. WEST.

John C. West, a prominent farmer of South Branch township and a native of Minnesota, was born on February 7, 1869, the son of Elijah Sylvester and Elizabeth (Reynolds) West.

Elijah West and wife after their marriage, settled on one hundred and sixty acres in section 12. This was what is known as a tree claim. After the death of the father, in the soldiers home hospital, in California, the mother added another one hundred and sixty acres to the farm. She now makes this her home. Until John C. was thirteen years of age the family lived in a sod house. To Elijah and Elizabeth West was born the following children: Frank, deceased; Milo of Edon, Montana; Helen Augusta, deceased; Warren, deceased; Elta, of Portland, Oregon, and John C.

John C. West grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the district school. His educational advantages were limited, as he could attend school but three months in the year.

On September 30, 1891, John C. West was married to Jennie Shilleto,



who was born in Minnesota on December 27, 1868. After the marriage, the young couple came to the farm, where they now reside, for their wedding supper. Mr. West had built the house before the marriage and had planted many trees on his farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

John C. West and wife are the parents of the following children: John, Jr., who married Iva Harlow and is an instructor in the University of Minnesota; Lila; Warren and David Benjamin; the latter is deceased.

John C. West is a progressive and successful farmer, and devotes much time to the raising of Holstein and Oxford cattle and Poland China hogs. His farm is in a high state of cultivation and his cattle and hogs are among the best. He knows what hard and thorough work means, having plowed when but nine years of age, ten acres on the homestead with an ox team.

Mr. West has served his township for five years as assessor. Externally, he is a member of the United Workmen. Mrs. West is an active member of the Christian church.

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#### ANDREW C. HAMRE.

Andrew C. Hamre, a substantial farmer of Madelia township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of fifty-eight acres, situated three miles north and one mile east of the city of Madelia, is a native son of Minnesota, born on a pioneer farm in the near vicinity of Emerald township, in Faribault county, this state, son of Christopher and Anna (Erickson) Hamre, natives of Norway, the latter of whom is now deceased.

Christopher Hamre came to the United States in his young manhood and settled on a farm near the city of Madison, in Wisconsin, later coming to Minnesota and settling on a farm in Faribault county, where he eventually became the owner of a farm of four hundred and eighty acres and was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He is now living comfortably retired in the city of Blue Earth, in Faribault county. To him and his wife were born four children, of whom Andrew C. was the last-born, the others being Sylvia, Erick and Christopher.

Andrew C. Hamre was reared on the homestead farm of his parents in Faribault county and received his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood. He grew up to the life of the farm and has ever been a farmer. In 1909 he located on the farm he now owns in Madelia township, Watonwan county, and where he ever since has lived and where he and his

family are very pleasantly situated. The farm was partly improved when he bought it, the improvements including a substantial dwelling house. In 1910 Mr. Hamre added to the improvements by the erection of a modern barn and has otherwise improved the place and brought it to its present well-kept condition. He follows modern methods of farming and is looked upon as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood.

Mr. Hamre married April 30, 1900, Ingrie Fedje, to which union three children have been born, Christopher, Eunice and Sylvia. Mr. and Mrs. Hamre are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper part in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general good works of the community in which they live.

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### BEN HOVDEN.

Ben Hovden, a well-known and progressive farmer, stockman and dairyman, of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in the vicinity of St. James and for years actively identified with the rapidly developing interests of that community, is a native of Norway, born on January 26, 1871, but has been a resident of Minnesota ever since he was twenty-one years old. His parents died when he was quite young and since he was ten years old he practically has made his own way in the world. Industry, thrift and energy have secured their customary reward in his case and he has scored a substantial success, long having been looked upon as one of the leading farmers and stockmen in the part of the county in which he lives.

When he was twenty-one years of age, early in 1892, Ben Hovden came to the United States and located at Minneapolis, where he remained for eight months, at the end of which time, in the fall of that same year, he came to this part of the state and located in Watonwan county, which has since been his place of residence. He married the year after coming here and in 1902 bought a forty-acre tract in section 9 of Rosendale township, where he established his home and where he ever since has lived. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Hovden has added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in sections 9 and 10, all of which is well-improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Hovden has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, with particular attention to Holstein cattle and Poland China swine. His operations are carried on along mod-

ern lines and his farm equipment is as good as any. His big, modern barn is lighted by electricity and the other outfittings are in keeping with the up-to-date spirit in which the place is conducted. Mr. Hovden's pure-bred dairy herd is his special pride and he does an extensive dairy business, the cream from the Hovden farm being in large demand by customers in the nearby city of St. James. Mr. Hovden is a Democrat and gives close attention to local civic affairs. He is a member of the township board and for nine or ten years has been a member of the school board in his district.

On December 5, 1893, Ben Hovden was united in marriage to Amelia Olson, who was born in Rosendale township, Watonwan county, January 12, 1873, daughter of Lars and Elizabeth Olson, who came to Minnesota from Norway in 1869 and settled in Watonwan county, being among the early settlers in this part of the state. Lars Olson homesteaded a farm in section 10, Rosendale township, and there established his home, becoming one of the substantial and influential farmers of that part of the county. In his declining years he retired from the farm and moved to St. James, where he spent his last days, his death occurring on March 11, 1900, he then being eighty-four years of age. His widow, who was born on March 12, 1840, is still living at St. James. To Mr. and Mrs. Hovden six children have been born, Carl, Emma, George, Alfred, Arthur and Ervin, all of whom are living. The Hovlands are members of the Lutheran church, in the various beneficences of which they take a warm interest, Mr. Hovden being clerk of the church, and they likewise give proper attention to all other neighborhood good works.

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#### ANDREW H. ANDERSON.

Among the Danes who have cast their lot with the people of Cottonwood county is the Anderson family—Andrew H., who is engaged in mercantile pursuits in Storden and his father, the late Hans Anderson, who died about twenty-seven years ago, and who was a prosperous farmer.

Andrew H. Anderson was born in Denmark, April 27, 1864, and is a son of Hans and Mary (Nelson) Anderson, both natives of Denmark where they grew up and were married. In 1865 the father came to America, and the mother followed with her son, Andrew H., in 1867. Hans Anderson located first at Muskingum, Michigan, where he worked as a laborer. The second year sickness overtook him, which incapacitated him for a long time. Upon his recovery he found he had spent all his earnings, but he went to



work again and continued as a laborer until 1870. He was at that time at Rochester, Minnesota, and had a capital of about five hundred and fifty dollars, and he decided to go farther west. He bought a team of oxen and a new wagon. Leaving his wife and child at Byron, near Rochester, he made the overland trip to Cottonwood county, taking up a homestead two miles north of the present site of Storden, and he and his brother, Rasmus Anderson, constructed a dugout, eighteen by eighteen feet on the land of the latter, which joined that of Hans. The shack was covered with willows and clay. There was one small window, and in this small hut two families spent the following winter. The following spring Hans Anderson built a rude home on his own land. It was a sod house. He went to work with a will and prospered with advancing years, developed a good farm and finally built a large and comfortable home. He accumulated one hundred and sixty acres, his widow later acquiring eighty more acres. His estate sold in 1914 for the sum of about eighteen thousand dollars. This is an instance of what courage and industry can accomplish when put to the test. Mr. Anderson endured many hardships and privations, but did not permit them to overwhelm him. On the morning of the great storm which visited Cottonwood county, he and his brother Rasmus went to the timber to work. The storm started as they reached the edge of the timber after loading on their way back home, and made their way to the home of Joe Christianson, which was on the western edge of the timber. They had two yoke of oxen, only one of which could be accommodated in their neighbor's barn, so they took the other yoke to a barn across the timber. With difficulty the three men got the oxen through the timber. The snow storm was so intense they could not see each other, depending on their voices to keep together, Mr. Christianson going ahead and locating a way out by the trees which he had marked. The home of Rasmus Anderson was completely snowed under; Mrs. Rasmus Anderson not being able to obtain wood, was compelled to saw up her chairs and table for fuel. It was three days before the Anderson brothers could return home. They had to search diligently for the Rasmus Anderson home, as it was entirely covered up in snow, only the stove-pipe showing.

Hans Anderson was influential in the affairs of his community. He was a member of the township board, also of the school board and was a trustee of the Lutheran church. His death occurred in 1887. His widow remained on the place until 1903. Her death occurred in the state of Washington in 1911 at an advanced age. To these parents seven children were born, namely: Andrew H., Christina, now deceased, was the wife of Ole



Akerlund; Anna, who is the wife of William Bates and they live in Windom; Christian is deceased; Matilda is the wife of Peter J. Halverson, and they live in Wenatchee, Washington; Petrena died when two years old; Henry A. is engaged in farming on land adjoining the old homestead, north of Storden.

Andrew H. Anderson grew up on the home farm and there he worked hard when a boy. He went to school only seven months in all. In the fall of 1887 he started a small grocery in Lamberton, Minnesota, remaining there until 1906, in which year he came to Storden, where he has since been engaged in general mercantile pursuits. He has built up a very satisfactory trade with the town and surrounding country. He assisted in organizing the Farmers State Bank of Storden in December, 1915, and since has been vice-president of the same.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1887, to Paulina Wagner of Sandburn, Redwood county, this state. She is a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of George L. Wagner and wife. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, of whom three are now living, namely: Wilhelmina, Harry E., Elaine Lucile.

Politically, he is a Republican. He has been a member of the local school board since coming to Storden, and has been treasurer of the same for two terms. While living at Lamberton he served as township clerk, also village clerk for many years. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Lutheran church.

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### AUGUST E. PETERSON.

It is a pleasure to be permitted to live on the old homestead, where cluster memories that are not to be found elsewhere. August E. Peterson has continued to reside on part of the old homestead in Long Lake township, Watonwan county, which he has kept well cultivated and on which he has erected new buildings. He was born here on September 14, 1881. He is a son of John and Mary (Carlson) Peterson, both natives of Sweden, from which country they came to America in the early seventies. The father spent five years in St. James, Minnesota, working at various things. About 1878 he homesteaded eighty acres in Long Lake township, soon buying eighty acres adjoining. He and his wife spent the rest of their lives on this farm. He was active in the Kansas Lake church and held offices

in it. Their family consisted of the following children: Selma E., who is the wife of Ed Lindquist; August E., Julia, who lives in Watonwan county; Carl V., who is engaged in the lumber business at Finley, North Dakota; P. Edward and Victor C. are both seniors, members of the graduating class of 1916 at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota.

August E. Peterson grew up on the home farm and received his education in the common schools of his community later taking a commercial course at Gustavus Adolphus College. After finishing his education he returned home and has since farmed eighty acres of the homestead. He has erected new buildings, which are modern and substantial and make many other important improvements. He operates forty acres additional nearby, and is a successful general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Peterson was married in 1911, to Ida M. Swenson, who was reared and educated in Watonwan county and Gustavus Adolphus College for four years. She is a daughter of A. D. Swenson and wife. To this union two children have been born, namely: Evangeline M. and Wendell Isidore.

Mr. Peterson is president of the Long Lake Farmers Club. He is an active member of the Kansas Lake Swedish Lutheran church, of which he was formerly treasurer and trustee and is now a deacon. Politically, he is independent.

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### JOHN A. ANDERSON.

The late John A. Anderson was for many years one of the enterprising farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Long Lake township, Watonwan county. He was a man who tried to live up to the sublime precepts of the Golden Rule as he went through life.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden about 1859. He came to America with his parents when a young man, his father entered a homestead, which he developed by hard work into a good farm, and on this place the widow of the subject of this sketch is now residing. About 1870 the family located here. John A. Anderson received a limited education in the common schools, and he assisted his father to reclaim the home farm from the raw prairie, and he remained on the place after his father's death. He managed well and worked hard, and became the owner of one of the choice and well-improved farms of the township, consisting of two hundred and forty acres. He was known as one of the best general farmers and stock raisers in his community.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1884, to Caroline Swanson, who was born in Sweden, and is a daughter of John and Johanna (Anderson) Swanson, both natives of Sweden, from which country they came to America in 1870, first locating in Illinois, but a few months later moved to Mankato, Minnesota, where they spent one winter. In 1871 they came to Odin township, Watonwan county, where Mr. Swanson took up a homestead of eighty acres, which he improved and on which he spent the rest of his life. His widow is now living in the town of Butterfield. He had one hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson nine children were born, namely: Lydia, Arthur, Theodore, Ernest, Alice, Elsie, Maynard, William, and Carl. They are all living.

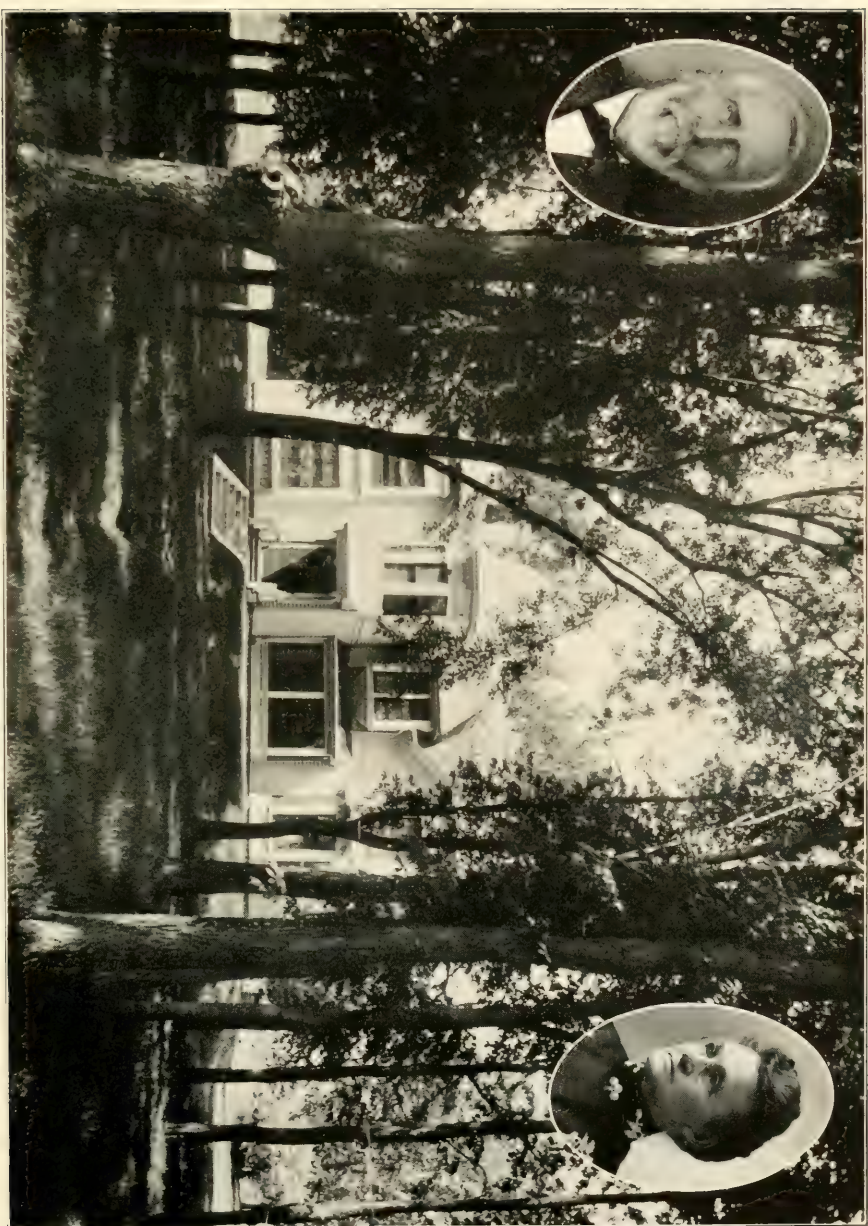
Mr. Anderson was an active member of Kansas Lake Swedish Lutheran church. His death occurred in January, 1901. Since then his sons have operated the home farm and they and their mother have improved the place generally, including the erection of a fine residence, which is neatly furnished.

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### JOHN BISBEE.

From the rugged Pine Tree state has come John Bisbee, one of the leading citizens and successful agriculturists of Madelia, Watonwan county. He was born in Oxford county, Maine, April 16, 1839, and is a son of Jones and Rebecca (Robinson) Bisbee, both natives of Oxford county, Maine. John and Sarah (Pillbrook) Bisbee, the paternal grandparents, were also natives of that state, where they spent their lives on a farm. Charles Bisbee, the great-grandfather, was a native of Massachusetts and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He devoted his life to farming. The founder of the American branch of the family was Thomas Bisbee, who came from England about 1635 and established his home in Massachusetts. He was a large landowner in England and he bequeathed his property to his grandchildren. He became a member of the Massachusetts Assembly. The maternal grandparents, Increase and Abbie (Parlin) Robinson, were both natives of Maine. He was a farmer and mill-owner. He purchased large tracts of land in Maine. He was of Scotch-Irish descent. The parents of the subject of this sketch grew to maturity in their native locality, there attended school and were married. The father devoted his active life to general farming, becoming one of the wealthiest men of his community.





MR. AND MRS. JOHN EISBEE AND RESIDENCE.





He was a man of influence and was highly respected. He was a Democrat all his life. His death occurred in 1875.

John Bisbee was reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools. He began teaching when eighteen years of age, continuing several terms. He went to Massachusetts, where he clerked in a store about one year, after which he spent the summer on a fishing expedition down the Gulf of St. Lawrence; then attended Auburn Academy, where he finished his education. He then accepted a position in a wholesale boot and shoe store in New York City, in which establishment he remained two and one-half years. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he returned to his home in Maine, taught school and engaged in farming until 1865, when he came west and located at Garden City, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he bought land, also taught school for some time. He clerked in a general store four years, after which he came to Madelia, where he secured employment in the store of Boynton & Cheeney, for four and one-half years. He then associated himself with Mathias Olson and opened a large general store, which they continued for twenty-five years, Mr. Bisbee finally selling out to his partner in 1891.

The work that Mr. Bisbee considers the most important in his career is what he has done the past fifteen years, during which he has put forth his efforts to produce an apple especially adapted to Minnesota and the Northwest, and he has become a noted horticulturist. He has developed a valuable orchard of two thousand apple trees, well suited to this climate. Since leaving the store he has devoted his attention to horticulture and agriculture and has met with pronounced success all along the line. He has a commodious and modernly appointed home in the edge of the village of Madelia, where he owns a well-improved and valuable farm of two hundred acres. He also owns five hundred acres of valuable land about five miles from Madelia, all under excellent improvements. He has erected all the buildings on his home place, the land being entirely unimproved when he located on it about forty-two years ago.

Mr. Bisbee was married on May 23, 1863, to Ardelia Small, of Wilton, Maine. She is a daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Merrill) Small, natives of Maine, in which state they spent their lives on a farm. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bisbee, named as follows: Melvina F. married E. C. Warner, who is president of the Midland Linseed Oil Company of Minneapolis; J. Oscar, who married Annie Tierney, of Madelia, runs a livery business at Madelia; Samuel S., who married Margarette

Turnem, has charge of refining and shipping in the Linseed Oil Company; Edgar C., who married Mattie Arnold, is vice-president of the Linseed Oil Company of Minneapolis; Albert J., who married Lulu Wiles, is head book-keeper for a threshing machine company in Minneapolis; Mabel A. married J. W. Palmer, farmer, Madelia township; Arthur L., who married Ethel Patterson, is traffic manager for the Linseed Oil Company of Minneapolis; Frank J., who married Marie Englebrecht, is a superintendent in the Linseed Oil Company of Minneapolis; Maurice S. assists his father in the management of his farm; Elmer, who was graduated from the civil engineering department of the University of Minnesota, is developing an old mine in California; Everett H. is assisting his father in the management of his farms; Carroll E. is also with his father on the home farm, and Ardelia, who married J. M. Lowe, superintendent of the New York Mill, property of the Linseed Oil Company of Minneapolis.

Mr. Bisbee has lived to see and take part in the wonderful transformation of the country about Madelia, whose interests he has ever at heart and sought to promote in every legitimate way. He is one of the influential and highly esteemed men of the county. He is a Mason, at Madelia, and he and family belong to the Presbyterian church.

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### ISAAC D. SCHULTZ.

Isaac D. Schultz, a substantial farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, is a native of Russia, but has been a resident of this country since he was a small child and has witnessed the development of this section of Minnesota since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in southern Russia on April 16, 1872, son of David Schultz and wife, who, with their children, came to the United States in 1874, proceeding to South Dakota, whence, the next year they came over the line into Minnesota and settled in Cottonwood county, where they established their home and became useful and influential pioneers. In a sketch relating to David Schultz, presented elsewhere in this volume, there are set out additional details regarding this pioneer family.

Isaac D. Schultz was about two years old when his parents came to this country and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm of his father in Midway township, Cottonwood county. He attended both the public

schools and the Mennonite school and early began farming on his own account. In 1900 he bought the southeast quarter of section 22 in Midway township and began to develop the same along up-to-date lines. Two years later he married and established his home on that place and there he has lived ever since, he and his family being very pleasantly and comfortably situated. He has a fine residence, a good barn and other farm buildings in keeping with the same and is looked upon as one of the progressive farmers of that neighborhood. Mr. Schultz is a Republican, but has never been a seeker after public office. He takes a warm interest, however, in the civic affairs of his community and is found among the promoters of such movements as are designed to advance the cause of good government hereabout.

On January 23, 1902, Isaac D. Schultz was united in marriage to Cornelia Peters, who was born in Cottonwood county on February 3, 1878, daughter of Cornelius and Lena Peters, both natives of southern Russia, who came to this country in 1873 and settled in Cottonwood county, becoming useful and influential pioneers of this section of Minnesota. Cornelius died in 1898 and his widow is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Schultz four children have been born, namely: David, born on January 7, 1903; Lena, August 5, 1905; Albert, April 30, 1907, and Williard, February 21, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz are earnest members of the Mennonite church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good work of their home community.

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### H. C. FLITTER.

One of the young business men of Lewisville, Watonwan county, who is succeeding by reason of his industry and fair dealings with his fellow-men is H. C. Flitter, hardware merchant. He was born in Waseca county, Minnesota, September 22, 1881, and is a son of Andrew Flitter, who is now living retired in Blue Earth county, this state.

H. C. Flitter received his education in the public schools of his native community. He grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked in the crops when he became of proper age, but not finding husbandry entirely to his liking, left the farm and clerked in various places until December 12, 1912, when, having saved his earnings and learned the various details of merchandising, he opened a hardware store in Lewisville, Minnesota, and



has continued the business to the present time, with increasing success, enjoying a good trade with the surrounding country. He erected his present substantial and convenient brick building. He carries a large stock of general hardware and implements, and conducts his business without a partner.

Mr. Flitter was married in 1903 to Ernestine Bergemann, of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where she grew to womanhood and was educated in the common schools. To this union five children have been born, namely: Gerhard, Lorin, Alma, Lillian, and Viola. The last named is deceased.

Mr. Flitter is a member of the German Lutheran church, and politically, he is a Republican.

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### CARL H. RUHBERG.

The Danes have always been regarded as good citizens of the United States, being industrious, law-abiding and loyal. Many of them have selected Cottonwood and adjoining counties as the arena of their activities, and among these who deserve special mention in a work of the nature of the one in hand, is Carl H. Ruhberg, banker of Storden.

Mr. Ruhberg was born in Denmark, October 19, 1865, and is a son of Peter A. and Mettie (Nelson) Ruhberg, natives of Germany and Denmark, respectively. These parents were reared and married in Europe, removing to America in 1868, locating in Iowa, but later came to Storden, Minnesota, where the father became a well-to-do and prominent citizen and where he is still living, now retired from active life. A complete sketch of these parents will be found on another page of this volume.

Carl H. Ruhberg was the second of a family of nine children, the others being named as follow: Adolph, Rosa, who died, and the next child was also named Rosa as was also the third, the second to bear the name also dying in infancy; Mary, Albert, Elmer E., and Iva May.

The subject of this sketch was three years old when he was brought to America, and here he grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools of Windom. He assisted his father with his farm work when he became old enough, continuing agricultural pursuits until he entered the general mercantile business at Windom. Subsequently, he was a salesman for a harvester company for some time, then clerked in the Hutton store in Windom. In 1904 he organized the First State Bank of Storden and became cashier of the same, which position he still holds to the entire satisfaction

of the stockholders and the patrons of the bank; in fact, the success of this institution has been due in no small measure to his efforts.

Mr. Ruhberg was married in October, 1890, to Caroline C. Jenson, of Storden, and to their union seven children have been born, namely: Mettie M., Maude I., Bessie H., Mary D., George D., Pearl G., and Willis C.

Mr. Ruhberg is a member of the Baptist church. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Bankers Life Association and also the M. B. A. Politically, he is independent.

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### E. I. LEONARD.

E. I. Leonard, one of the prominent retired farmers, of Watonwan county, was born on October 17, 1850, in Marquette county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Ezra and Abigail (Seager) Leonard. Jonathan Leonard, the paternal grandfather of E. I. Leonard, was a native of Vermont and later settled in Marquette county, Wisconsin. The maternal grandfather, Julius Seager, was a native of a New England state and at an early date settled in Minnesota.

Ezra Leonard, was born and educated in the state of New York, where he grew to manhood and was married to Abigail Seager. He later became a resident of Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and here he made his home until the time of his death, November, 1904. Mrs. Leonard died in 1908. To Ezra and Abigail Leonard was born the following children: Julia, deceased; Thomas, deceased; Susan, Julius, Amanda, deceased; Edward I., Charles, William, deceased; Laura, deceased; Ella and Sherman.

E. I. Leonard was married on June 7, 1873, to Nancy Seager, the daughter of Charles and Mary (Scoville) Seager. Mrs. Leonard was born on October 26, 1851, at West Salem, Wisconsin, the first white child born in LaCrosse county. To this union the following children were born: Maud, who married Charles Sherman, of South Branch, Minnesota; LeRoy, a doctor in Redwood, Minnesota, who married Agnes Peterson; Millie is the wife of William Skelton, a farmer near Redwood. Maud attended high school at Madelia and St. James, taught four years previous to her marriage; LeRoy, after high school, graduated with honors from the College of Osteopathy at Des Moines, Iowa; Millie attended Madelia high school and Winona Normal, and taught school seven years previous to marriage.

Julius Seager, the paternal grandfather of Nancy Leonard, was a promi-

gent farmer of Wisconsin, where he died at an advanced age. Asa Scoville, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Nova Scotia. He later devoted his life to farming in Wisconsin. Charles Seager, the father of Nancy Leonard, was born in Massachusetts, and when Nancy was twelve years of age came to Minnesota, where the family remained for nine years. He returned to Wisconsin for a short time and later settled in Waseca county, where he died in 1876. Mrs. Seager died in 1890.

E. I. Leonard resides in Madelia, living on a property that he purchased thirteen years ago. His farm of two hundred and forty acres, that he bought thirty years ago, is situated in section 25, Antrim township. All the improvements on the places were made by Mr. Leonard. He served his township as supervisor for two years and was for a number of years a director of the schools.

At the age of fifty-one, Ezra Leonard enlisted in the army and served for fourteen months, in the Civil War. His son Thomas served for three years and the son of Julius for five months, he having died of measles while in the service.

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### AMELIUS E. WOODRUFF.

Amelius E. Woodruff was born in Essex county, New York, July 26, 1842, a son of Lyman L. Woodruff, who was born in New York City, and Laura (Lee) Woodruff, who was born in Essex county, New York state.

Lyman L. Woodruff was a lumberman and handled wood, and was also connected with ore mining in New York state. He made his first trip West in 1861, coming to St. Paul, Minnesota, but only remaining for five months, when he returned to New York. Four years later, in 1865, he came again to St. Paul, this time bringing his family with him. His first occupation after coming to Minnesota was manager of a stage line, with headquarters at Mankato. After two years in this business he located on a farm near St. Paul, where he lived the rest of his life. The children in this family were: William Wallace, Alonzo S., Harry, who died at the age of three years; Millard L., Amelius E., Alice A., Nellie E., Sarah, who died at the age of fourteen, and Millie.

Amelius E. Woodruff was educated in the district schools of Essex county, New York, and worked during his boyhood years with his father in the lumber and mining business. He came West with his father, in 1865,



and was engaged for about four months driving the stage between Stillwater and Taylor's Falls, Minnesota. He then went on a farm at Meriam Park, St. Paul, and farmed for nine years; then conducted a farm for one year at Fridley Park, Minneapolis; following this he was employed on the railroad for two years. In 1875 he came to Cottonwood county and conducted a farm in Mountain Lake township for fifteen years. In 1890 he came to Mountain Lake, built a store and started a general merchandising business, which he continued until 1910, when he retired. For ten years he was connected with the Cottonwood County Bank, serving as director and vice-president of this institution.

Mr. Woodruff was twice married, first to Laurette Ware, daughter of Silas Ware and wife. His second marriage was to Rose Bawman. To this union four children were born: Harry E., Winnifred, who died at the age of three years; Seymour and Winnifred, who died when a child. The mother died on March 14, 1902.

Mr. Woodruff is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order, including the blue lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, and the Shriners, at St. Paul.

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### NELS SIEM.

Nels Siem, one of the prominent farmers of Long Lake township, was born in Norway on January 20, 1869, the son of Thomas and Carrie (Asperhain) Siem. Thomas and Carrie Siem were natives of Norway, and grew to manhood and womanhood, in their native country, and were married there. In 1869 they came to the United States and settled for one year in Wisconsin. They then came to Minnesota, where they homesteaded eighty acres of land, in Long Lake township. The land was raw prairie when entered, but in time was developed into a well-improved and highly cultivated tract. By hard work and industry the original farm was increased to two hundred and eighty acres, before the death of Mr. and Mrs. Siem. Mr. Siem assisted in the organization of the Long Lake and the Kansas Lake Lutheran churches.

To Thomas Siem and wife were born the following children: Ole; Nels; Ida; Henry; Sever, deceased; Lena; Tilda, deceased; Peter, deceased, and two who died in infancy.

Nels Siem was educated in the schools of his township and has always



lived here, with the exception of two years that he spent farming in Lac qui Parle county. He has resided on his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres since 1909. Here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

In 1900 Nels Siem was married to Hilda Sarklend, the daughter of Peter Sarklend and wife. To them have been born the following children: Hilda, Harry, Emma, Eddie, Melvin, Esther, and Nelius.

Mr. Siem and family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of Long Lake township.

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### MRS. ELIZABETH REBECCA WEST.

Elizabeth Rebecca West, one of the prominent and successful pioneers of South Branch township, was born in the state of New York, being the daughter of Lyman and Abigail (Wooden) Reynolds. Thomas Reynolds, the grandfather of Mrs. West, was a native of Germany and came to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming, until his death.

Lyman Reynolds was a man of education, and for a time taught arithmetic and geometry, in a select school. He and his family came west when the daughter, Elizabeth, was but four years of age. They located in Illinois, where Mr. Reynolds purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Whiteside county. He later purchased another three hundred and twenty acres in Henry county and devoted himself to farming.

Lyman Reynolds and wife were the parents of the following children: Mary, deceased; Elizabeth Rebecca, Phoebe, deceased; Thomas Jefferson, deceased; Ellen, deceased, and Benjamin Franklin.

Elizabeth Rebecca Reynolds was married at the age of eighteen, in Henry county, Illinois, to Elijah Sylvester West. Mr. West died in the soldiers' home hospital, in California, where he had been for a few years, because of organic heart trouble.

Elijah Sylvester West and Elizabeth Rebecca West were the parents of the following children: Frank, Milo, Augusta, Warren, Elta and John O. Frank is deceased. He was the father of the following children: Dolly, Lula and Alonzo M. Milo lives at Edon, Montana. He married Olive West and they have the following children: Frank, Elizabeth, named for the grandmother, and Helen. Augusta lives near St. Paul and is the wife of Dennis Newton. Warren is deceased. He was married to Etta Durham and to them were born the following children: Dennis, Alice,



MRS. ELIZABETH R. WEST AND CHILDREN.



Mammie and Ray. Elta married Oscar Durham of Portland, Oregon. They have one child, Grace. John C. married Jennie Shilleto and to them have been born the following children: John, Jr., Lila, Warren and David B., deceased.

Forty-six years ago when Mrs. West came to her present home, there was no town of Lewisville or St. James, and but a blacksmith shop at Madelia. They were bothered with prairie fires and the land was all undeveloped. For ten years the family lived in a sod house, there being no other buildings on the farm. Mrs. West owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, where the home is situated and one hundred and sixty acres in section 11. Eighty acres of the farm she homesteaded and filed the claim herself. At present most of her land is rented and she keeps some cattle.

Many trees, box elders, cottonwood and willow, have been planted on the farm, which adds much to its value and beauty.

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### GUSTAV MISSLING.

Gustav Missling, a progressive young farmer of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of nearly two hundred acres in the vicinity of Jeffers, is a native of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Rapidan township, Blue Earth county, January 14, 1881, son of Augustus and Augusta (Franz) Missling, the former a native of the state of Wisconsin and the latter of Germany, who are now living retired in the town of Good Thunder, in Blue Earth county, this state.

August Missling was reared on the farm on which he was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, and when a young man came to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Rapidan township, Blue Earth county, where he lived until his retirement from the active labors of the farm, he and his wife now living at Good Thunder, where they are very comfortably situated. They are members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There are five of these children, all living, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Robert, Lena, now Mrs. Yeager; Otto and Edward.

Gustav Missling was reared on the paternal farm in Blue Earth county, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and remained there until his marriage in 1907, when he started farming on



his own account, renting the farm on which he now lives and where he ever since has made his home. In 1909, two years after taking that place, he bought one hundred acres of the farm and later bought the remainder, now being the owner of one hundred and ninety-six and seventy-five one-hundredths acres of fine land, which he has improved and brought under profitable cultivation. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Missling has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well, being recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that community. He is a Republican and takes a proper interest in local political affairs, but has not been an aspirant for public office.

It was in 1907 that Gustav Missling was united in marriage to Anna Graf, daughter of Fred Graf, of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and to this union three children have been born, Harold, Earl and Valuria. Mr. and Mrs. Missling are members of the German Lutheran church and take a warm interest in church affairs as well as in all local good works.

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#### O. A. KABRICK, M. D.

O. A. Kabrick was born in Plainville, Illinois, November 9, 1880. He is a son of J. C. Kabrick, born in West Virginia, and Mary E. (Badgley) Kabrick, who was born in Barry, Illinois.

J. C. Kabrick, when a young man, went to Adams county, Illinois, and engaged in farming, and followed that occupation in Adams county during the rest of his life. He was the father of six children: Cora B., Albert F., Lucy V., David, who died young; O. A., the subject of this sketch, and Mary E.

The subject of this sketch was educated in elementary branches in Adams county, Illinois. Later he attended a normal college at Bushnell and Macomb, Illinois, and afterward was engaged in teaching for one winter. In 1902 he entered a medical college at Keokuk, Iowa, and took a four-years course in that institution, graduating in 1906. He began the practice of his profession in Butterfield, May, 1906, remaining at that place for about two years and a half. In November, 1908, he came to Odin and has since continued his practice here. In August, 1913, he was appointed postmaster of Odin.

On June 17, 1908, Doctor Kabrick and Clara E. (Boud) were united in marriage. Mrs. Kabrick is a daughter of Edwin L. and Elizabeth (Booth)

Boud of Keokuk, Iowa. Clayton E. is their only child. Politically, Doctor Kabrick is an independent; fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### WILLIAM A. MULLEN.

William A. Mullen, merchant of Madelia, Watonwan county, has been able to succeed at whatever he has turned his attention to, because he plans well, is energetic in execution, "preparedness" being his motto, in other words; he first decides that he is right, then goes ahead.

Mr. Mullen was born in the above named town and county, January 25, 1869, and is a son of Charles G. and Mary E. (Johnson) Mullen. The father was a native of the state of New York and the mother of Norway. Grandfather Thomas Mullen was a native of the state of New York, from which he moved to Madelia, Minnesota, during the latter fifties. He was for many years door-keeper of the United States Senate, which position he held until about 1890. He spent the last years of his life in Madelia, where his death occurred. The maternal grandfather, Paul Johnson, was a native of Norway. Emigrating to Minnesota, in an early day he homesteaded land in Lincoln township, Blue Earth county. The parents of the subject of this sketch were married in 1868, each having come to Minnesota with their parents. The father devoted the early years of his life to farming, finally started a book store and sewing machine shop in Madelia, later adding other lines and became a successful general merchant, continuing as such until 1892, when he sold out to his three sons. Removing to California he spent his last years in that state, dying there in 1897. His widow still lives at Long Beach, California. He was postmaster at Madelia during President Harrison's administration. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company G, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served throughout the conflict. His family consisted of three sons, namely: William A., Frank L. and Walter G. After the father's death the sons continued the business as Mullen Brothers, Walter G. withdrawing from the partnership in a few years and is now engaged in the real estate business in Los Angeles, California. William A. and Frank L. are still conducting stores, which enjoy an extensive trade. A large and well-selected stock of general merchandise is carried at all seasons and honesty and courtesy have continued to be watchwords.

William A. Mullen grew to manhood in his native town and was educated in the public schools. He was married on August 9, 1901, to Ada M. Williams, of Fremont, Iowa, and to their union three children have been born, namely: Marcella, Fannie Eloise and Jean Elizabeth.

Fraternally, William A. Mullen belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, the Mystic Workers and the M. B. A. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder. He was once state commander of the Sons of Veterans.

Frank L. Mullen was born in Madelia, in December, 1871, was educated in the public schools here and when a boy entered the store of his father and has since devoted his life to mercantile pursuits. He was married in 1899, to Bertis Hagen, of Janesville, Minnesota, and to this union one child has been born, Charles Mullen. Fraternally, Frank L. Mullen is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Presbyterian church.

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### ADOLPH SUCKER.

Adolph Sucker is of German ancestry, but is himself a native American. He was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, March 30, 1876. He is a son of Richard Sucker, born in Germany, April 4, 1840, and Rosalie (Weber) Sucker, born in Germany, April 8, 1844, and died in Jackson county, Minnesota, April, 1887.

Richard Sucker came to America about 1863. He first located in Jefferson, Wisconsin, and remained there until 1872, when he removed to Jackson county, Minnesota, where he located on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. He here established his home and engaged in farming until about 1903, when he removed to Lake Crystal, Minnesota, where he is at present living. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sucker were: Gustav H., William F., Minnie, Ida, John, Adolph, Herman, Conrad and Otto. The father and mother were members of the German Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Democrat.

Adolph Sucker was educated in the public schools of Jackson county and in Wilder Farm College and Cedar Rapids Business College. In his early manhood he learned the carpenter trade and followed this occupation for about three years. For about three years he was employed in a hardware store at Lakefield and Amboy, Blue Earth county, Minnesota. Then

he engaged in the real estate business, in Amboy, for about one year. In January, 1902, he came to Lewisville and organized the Merchants State Bank and was made cashier of this institution, a position which he has held since the organization.

In 1903 Adolph Sucker was united in marriage to Ida Redetzke, daughter of Fred Redetzke, of Hebron, North Dakota. To this union five children have been born: Soezetta, Kermet, Fern, Kinten and Richard. Mr. and Mrs. Sucker are members of the German Lutheran church; he is at present treasurer of the local congregation; treasurer of village of Lewisville, and a director of Midland Trust and Savings Bank of St. Paul, Minn.

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### M. W. PARR.

M. W. Parr, the subject of this sketch, was born in Wabasha county, Minnesota, November 29, 1869, a son of Thaddeus Parr, born in Franklin county, New York, and Esther (Washburn) Parr, a native of Canada.

Thaddeus Parr was a farmer boy in Franklin county, New York, and, while still a youth, came West and located in Wisconsin. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G, Twentieth Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry. On December 7, 1862, this regiment was part of the army of the frontier and was engaged in the battle of Prairie Grove, or Fayetteville, Arkansas, in which the Federal forces sustained the loss of a considerable number of killed and wounded. Thaddeus Parr was among those wounded in this engagement. He never sufficiently recovered from this wound to enable him to return to his regiment for active duty, and consequently was discharged after service as soldier for nine months. He returned home and some after the war he bought a farm in Wabasha county, Minnesota, and turned his attention to farming. He followed this occupation for thirty years and then retired from active work. He is now living in Owatonna, Steele county, Minnesota.

Mrs. Esther (Washburn) Parr was the mother of three children: M. W., Esther, who married L. W. Godfrey, and Catherine, who married Dr. G. A. Grove.

M. W. Parr was educated in the public schools of Wabasha county, Minnesota, and worked on a farm during his youthful years. Beginning in 1892 he was for five years employed as a clerk in a store, at Plainview, Minnesota. About 1897 he decided to turn his attention to agricultural pur-



suits. He went to South Dakota and located on a farm and was engaged in farming for fourteen years. In 1911 he disposed of his Dakota interests and returned to Minnesota, locating in Kenyon, Goodhue county, where he was engaged in the real estate business for three years. In March, 1915, he disposed of his business in Kenyon and came to Madelia. Here he opened up a hardware and implement store, in which business he is at present engaged.

Mr. Parr was married to Louisa M. Burgess. To this union three children have been born: Roland, Esther and Thaddeus.

Mr. and Mrs. Parr are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Parr is a Republican. His fraternal affiliations are with the Order of Foresters, and with the American Order of Woodmen.

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### CARL R. BISHOP.

Although the life of a railroad man is a hazardous and strenuous one, there is something very fascinating about it. Carl R. Bishop, of St. James, Watonwan county, has long been in railroad service and is a trusted and efficient locomotive engineer.

Mr. Bishop was born in Garden City, Minnesota, October 4, 1869. He is a son of LeRoy H. and Emily S. (Howard) Bishop, both natives of Winthrop, Maine, the birth of the father occurring December 23, 1840, and that of the mother, August 16, 1846. They grew up in their native town and were married there on December 25, 1866. They came to Garden City, Minnesota, in the spring of 1867, George S. Thompson and wife coming at the same time, and Mr. Thompson and Mr. Bishop engaged in general mercantile pursuits in that town for some time, both moving with their families to St. James in June, 1870, and opened a general store here, also bought grain, under the firm name of Thompson & Bishop, continuing in business until about 1880, when they dissolved partnership, Mr. Thompson taking the store and Mr. Bishop continuing in the grain business until about 1883, when he turned his attention to buying and selling live stock in partnership with W. D. Rice, under the firm name of Rice & Bishop. Mr. Bishop continued in the stock business until the fall of 1886, when he removed with his family to Minneapolis; moving to St. Paul in the spring of 1887 and engaged in the real estate business until his retirement from active life about 1906. His death occurred in St. Paul, October 29, 1910, and his wife died

on December 27, 1912. After retiring from the real estate business, LeRoy H. Bishop went to northwestern South Dakota, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Butte county. His son, Carl R. Bishop and family also took up a homestead there in 1908. Politically, the father was a Republican, and active in party affairs. He represented his district in the state Legislature for some time, while living at St. James. Fraternally, he belonged to the Masonic Order. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which his wife was an active worker, and who later was active in the Presbyterian church, being a member of the choir and also organist for some time, while living in St. Paul. She was also active in the work of the Federated Women's Club. She was for some time head of the Ladies Aid Society in Merriam Park church, which had restaurant concessions at the Minnesota state fair grounds for several years. She was a woman of many strong attributes and was popular and influential in the circles in which she moved. She was educated at Kent's Hill Academy in Maine, from which institution she was graduated, as was also her husband. To these parents the following children were born: Eugene A., born on March 10, 1868, died on April 6, 1906; Carl R., Hattie Blanche, born on November 11, 1877, is the wife of George A. Marvin and they live in Tacoma, Washington; Howard W., born on January 28, 1888, married Hazel M. Strong, and they live at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Carl R. Bishop received his education in the schools of St. James and the Minneapolis high school. In 1887 he began his railroad career by accepting a position with the Omaha road, in November of that year, and he was promoted to engineer in 1895. He was transferred to St. James in 1889 and he has since made his home there, and has been regarded as one of the most efficient and trustworthy engineers on the Omaha for the past twenty years.

Mr. Bishop was married on August 5, 1899, to Mary E. Sickler, a native of Gordon Plains, Illinois, where her birth occurred on September 9, 1869. She is daughter of John and Mahetabel (Macumber) Sickler, both natives of Delaware county, New York, from which place they eventually removed to Illinois, prior to the Civil War. When the war came on Mr. Sickler enlisted, after which he moved with his family to Iowa, where he spent one year at Ogden, removing to Martin county, Minnesota, about 1874, locating on a farm. He also conducted a hotel at Fairmont, this state, for some time. His death occurred in 1909, but his widow survives.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bishop four children have been born, namely: LeRoy,

born in 1901, died in infancy; Beth S., September 24, 1904; Elnah M., April 25, 1907; Frances H., in 1910; died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Bishop is a Progressive. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, also the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### HEINRICH SCHROEDER.

A type of the better class of farmers in Cottonwood county is Heinrich Schroeder, of Midway township. He is a man who uses brain as well as brawn in operating his place, and he has been successful in the various departments of his general work as a husbandman.

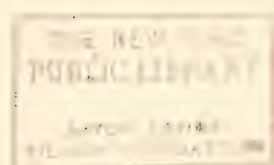
Mr. Schroeder was born at Paulsheim, southern Russia, May 11, 1856, and is a son of David and Katherina (Newfeld) Schroeder. The father was born while his parents were moving from Germany to Russia. The mother was born in Lectfeld, Russia. The birth of the father occurred on February 27, 1821, and he died in 1885, at the age of sixty-four years. His father devoted his life to farming in Russia and there he farmed until he immigrated with a colony to Elkhart, Indiana, in July, 1873. The elder men of the party left their families at Elkhart for seven weeks, while they traveled in the West, hunting a suitable location. They decided upon Yankton, South Dakota, and thither they brought their families. About this time another colony from the same locality in which they had resided in southern Russia had determined to locate at Mountain Lake, Minnesota. The father of the subject of this sketch remained at Yankton, South Dakota, until December, 1873, when he came to Mountain Lake, where he had a number of friends. He purchased land in section 9, Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, paying four dollars per acre. The land had a small house on it, and here he and his family were soon located and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. He was a Mennonite preacher. The denomination had but one church, known as Bethel, which was organized in 1877, in the granary of the father of the subject of this sketch. To David Schroeder and wife the following children were born: David, Jr., John, Heinrich, Jacob, Peter, Frank, George, and William. It was to better rear his sons that the father of these children came to America, and it was also largely due to militarism that they left the church.

Heinrich Schroeder grew up on the home farm and received a common



HEINRICH SCHROEDER.





school education in Russia, learning the German language, also some Russian. He has devoted his active life to general farming and the threshing business. Upon his marriage he purchased a part of his father's home place on which he resided from 1880 to 1895, then moved to the farm on which he now resides in the edge of the village of Mountain Lake, his place containing one hundred and sixty acres in section 32. He has rebuilt all the buildings on his land and has a well-improved and valuable farm. In connection with general farming he breeds full-blooded Percheron horses. He has been engaged in threshing since 1876, operating a machine each autumn, and is one of the best known men in this line in the county.

Mr. Schroeder was married in 1877 to Anna Regier, who was born in 1855 at Rudnerweid, southern Russia. She came with her parents to Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in 1876. To this union seven children have been born, namely: Anna, David, John, Henry, Katherina, Helena and Elizabeth. Besides their own they have reared another child, Samuel, a son of George Schroeder, brother of the subject of this sketch, the lad being six years old when he came to their home.

Heinrich Schroeder was for a period of fifteen years a trustee of Bethel church, and was also a Sunday school teacher many years. He is now not a member of any church, being somewhat broad in his religious views, but his family affiliate with the Mennonite church. Politically, he is independent. He was for eleven years assessor of Mountain Lake township, and for seven years was chairman of the Midway township board. He was president of the German school at the time the present school building was erected, remaining in that position for seven years. He has been a prominent man in his community and has done much for the general public welfare.

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#### LEWIN M. PURRINGTON.

Modern methods of husbandry are clearly understood and carried out by Lewin M. Purrington of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, who has by his own efforts become one of the best general farmers of his township. He was born in Howard county, Iowa, July 2, 1866, and is a son of John B. and Orinda (Peterson) Purrington. The father was born in Vermont, in 1833, and the mother was a native of Massachusetts. They spent their earlier years in New England, coming West about 1858 and locating

in Iowa, where they resided until the spring of 1872, when they located on a farm in Dale township, Cottonwood county, the father homesteading a place, on which he lived about three years. He spent the rest of his life in Cottonwood county, with the exception of some three years spent in the far West. He first came to this state about 1855, soon after his marriage, locating on a farm now covered by the city of Minneapolis, owning one hundred and sixty acres there. At that time St. Paul was a mere village in which one horse was sufficient to take care of all the draying. Years later he filed on a claim in Colorado, intending to have his son, Lewin M. prove it up when he became of legal age. When he had returned to the claim he found that someone else had proven up on it, but he bought out the stranger. John B. Purrington was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in Company C, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His family consisted of the following children: Nelson, Addie, Olive (deceased), Lewin M., John W. and William, the latter deceased; Charles, Clifford.

Lewin M. Purrington grew up on the home farm, and received his education in the common schools. With the exception of two years spent in Colorado he has lived in Cottonwood county continuously since he came here. He has always followed farming, and owns eighty acres, on which he has made many improvements, including good buildings. He is now treasurer of the school board.

Mr. Purrington was married on January 5, 1893, to Minnie Peterson, a native of Cottonwood county, and a daughter of Elias N. Peterson and wife. Ten children have been born to them, namely: Addie, Lyndon, Orrin, Pearl, Melvin, Marvin, Marie, Ernest, Herbert and Mildred.

Elias N. Peterson, mentioned above, was born in Stowe, Vermont, and was a son of Cyrus and Ellen M. (Nason) Peterson, who removed with their family in 1869 to Cottonwood county, locating in section 12, Springfield township, the father taking up a homestead there. The mother died at Windom. Elias N. lived in Cottonwood county during his active life, with the exception of two years spent at Long Prairie, this state. He was a soldier in the Civil War, in the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. At the time of the memorable Indian massacre, Cyrus Peterson and wife were at St. Peter, Minnesota. Elias N. Peterson was married at Kasota, this state, to Irene Haddock, who was a native of Pennsylvania, where her father died, after which the family came to Kasota in pioneer days. To Elias N. Peterson and wife five children were born, namely: Ella D., Minnie M., Lettie, Arthur H. and Calista.

## BERT MILLIGAN.

Bert Milligan was born in Mower county, Minnesota, September 22, 1872, a son of John C. and Martha (Lambert) Milligan, both natives of New York state. John C. Milligan came with his parents to Minnesota when a mere lad and located in Mower county. As a young man he was engaged in lumbering along the St. Croix river, later he was employed as a carpenter in the building of the state prison at Stillwater, Minnesota. In 1878 he went to Dovary township, Murray county, and located a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. To this place the family moved, in 1880, and began the work of improving the land. The father lived upon this homestead until his death. The mother is still living. He was a member of the Baptist church, and affiliated with the Republican party.

Bert Milligan was educated in the public school of Westbrook township, Cottonwood county, that school being much nearer to his home than any school in Murray county. He then engaged in teaching, and taught in the first school in the village of Westbrook. He taught one winter there and then took up the business of well drilling, and in the summer season he operated a threshing machine. He followed this line of business for about fifteen years. In 1901 he was employed as stationary engineer for the Westbrook Milling Company, continuing in that employ for about six years. Then for three years he was electrician and chief engineer for the Marshall Milling Company, at Marshall, Minnesota. In July, 1911, he returned to Westbrook to take a position as manager of Farmers' elevator and has since continued in this employment. This plant is one of the best equipped and one of the most successful elevators in the state, the success being due largely to Mr. Milligan's capable management.

Mr. Milligan was married in 1901 to Esther Buswitz, daughter of August and Minnie (Krause) Buswitz. To this union four children have been born: Lloyd, Gladys, Wayne and Vera.

Mr. Milligan is independent in politics. He is president of the Farmers Club of Westbrook; also president of the Westbrook Co-operative Company. His fraternal affiliations are with the Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors.

Among the first things Mr. Milligan had the distinction of doing in the village of Westbrook, was teaching school in the first school house in the village; he drilled the first well in the village, in May, 1900, and broke the first ground at the same time. He bought the first lots sold in the vil-



lage, and paid the rental for the first box in the postoffice of the village, thus showing that he was there at the beginning of things, with a faith in the future growth and prosperity of the village; and he is still here with the same optimistic opinion as to the future of the village in which his pioneer activities were manifested and his pioneer investments were made.

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### BENJAMIN J. RATZLAFF.

In the Russian settlement in Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, one sees evidence of progressiveness on every hand, well-kept farms, modern homes and prosperous, contented people. One of these careful farmers who own a valuable place and comfortable home is Benjamin J. Ratzlaff. He was born in Russia, January 10, 1865. He is a son of John and Anna (Buller) Ratzlaff, both natives of Russia, where they resided until August, 1876, when they brought their family to Minnesota, renting land for one year northeast of the village of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county. In 1878 they moved to the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch, the father buying eighty acres of school land, later adding to his holdings until he owned one hundred and sixty acres. He made all the improvements on this land, which was covered with tall prairie grass when he came here. He turned the sod, planted crops and erected all his buildings, and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Their family consisted of ten children, namely: Henry J., Peter, Anna, Helena, Abraham, Maria, Benjamin J., and John, and two others who died in Russia. The parents of these children were members of the Mennonite church.

Benjamin J. Ratzlaff received his education in the common schools of Russia and Mountain Lake township, this county, also attended school in the village of Mountain Lake. He has remained on the home place, having bought out the other heirs and also the various parties to whom some of the heirs had sold. He has kept the place well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He has enlarged the barn and erected other buildings. He keeps a large herd of Shorthorn cattle. He has shares in the Farmers' elevator and creamery at Mountain Lake. He also engages to some extent in threshing each autumn, but not so extensively as formerly.

Mr. Ratzlaff was married in 1891, to Helena Bese, a native of Russia, a daughter of John Bese, also a native of Russia, who brought his family to South Dakota in an early day, later moving to Saskatchewan, Canada, where



MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN J. KATZLAFF.



he became well-to-do, and there he spent the rest of his life. To Mr. Ratzlaff and his first wife three children were born, namely: Benjamin, John, and Anna. The wife and mother passed away in 1895, and in that year he married for his second wife, Anna Pankratz, a native of Russia, and a daughter of Peter Pankratz, who brought his family to the village of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, where he spent the rest of his life. To Mr. Ratzlaff's second union five children have been born, namely: Lena, Peter, Mary, Nettie, and Lizzie (deceased).

Politically, Mr. Ratzlaff is a Republican. He has been clerk of the local school board during the past eighteen years, up to the recent meeting of the board, when he resigned, or declined to hold the office longer. He has also served as road overseer. He is a member of the Mennonite church.

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### JOHN EDWIN MOORE.

For many years John Edwin Moore, the present postmaster at Lewisville, has been one of the most public-spirited men of Watonwan county and influential in public life, and he has the confidence of those who know him. He was born in Polk county, Wisconsin, November 14, 1872, and is a son of John R. Moore, a contractor and builder, who lived in Wisconsin, Washington and Virginia. He died on April 25, 1916, at Richmond, Virginia.

John R. Moore, subject's father, was a veteran of the Civil War. He served in the Tenth Wisconsin Light Artillery, and was mustered out with his regiment at the close of the war, having seen service throughout the entire war, and participated in many battles, but was never wounded or captured.

John E. Moore grew up in his native state and there attended the public schools, after which he engaged in farming for some time, finally moving to Minnesota and lived on farms in Cass and Blue Earth counties, prior to coming to Lewisville, in 1901. Here he purchased the barber shop and jewelry business of T. A. Barker, which he conducted three years, then sold the barber business to Elmer Olson, but continued to handle jewelry, drugs, books and confections, until April 17, 1909, when he succeeded Richard Lewis as postmaster, and has held the office ever since, to the satisfaction of the people and the department.

Mr. Moore was married on August 29, 1897, to Ethel H. Kelley, of



Vernon Center, Minnesota, a daughter of John C. Kelley and wife, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Kermit, Lyle, Elsie Ruth and Elmer Dale.

Politically, Mr. Moore is a Republican. He is now president of the village council, which office he has held several times since coming to Lewisville. He is also clerk of the local school board. While living in Hiram township, Cass county, Minnesota, he was a member of the township board. He has always been active in public affairs wherever he has lived. Fraternally, he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons at Madelia. Mr. Moore and family affiliated with the Christian churches.

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### WILLIAM A. COOK.

Those who succeed usually look at life from an optimistic viewpoint, finding this attitude more conducive to success. Understanding this, William A. Cook, of Windom, Cottonwood county, who holds the responsible position of state road overseer, never permits the little things of daily life to unduly annoy him.

Mr. Cook was born at Ripon, Wisconsin, July 19, 1861, and is a son of W. B. and Jane E. Cook, both natives of the state of New York. The father spent his boyhood in that state and attended school, finally moving with his parents to Ohio, where he was married. He took up the wagon-maker's trade, also that of wheelwright, continuing to follow these all his life, becoming quite expert. He removed with his family to Ripon, Wisconsin, about 1854, working at his trades there until 1873, when he came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead of eighty acres, one-half mile northeast of Windom, where he farmed and followed his trades for about fifteen years, then moved to Windom and retired from active life. He had increased his holdings to one hundred and sixty acres. His death occurred on April 4, 1909. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1906. They were parents of five children, namely: Eva, who married C. P. Lyman; Frances, who married B. F. Clement; William, the subject of this sketch; Alice, who married Leonard McClintock, and Josie, who married C. W. Lowrey.

William A. Cook spent his boyhood on the farm, and he received his education in the schools of Windom. He started out in life as a brakeman on the Omaha railroad, later was promoted to freight conductor. He fol-

lowed railroading for a period of sixteen years, during which he was regarded as a very faithful and trustworthy employee. In 1897 he located at Windom, buying a livery barn, which he conducted for two years, then sold out and rented his father's farm, which he operated with success until 1910, when he went to South Dakota and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, remaining there two years, then returning to Windom. In 1913 he was appointed state road overseer, which position he has held ever since, and has discharged his duties in a manner that has reflected much credit on himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has done much to encourage better roads all over the commonwealth.

Mr. Cook was married in 1886, to Minnie Espey, a daughter of S. M. Espey and wife, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Gertrude, Esby, Richard, and Frank. They all survive and are all single. They have been well educated.

Politically, Mr. Cook is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Rebekahs. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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### OLANS SYVERSON.

The life of Olans Syverson, elevator man of Ormsby, Watonwan county, has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. He was born in Martin county, Minnesota, September 11, 1878, and is a son of Peter and Mary (Jenson) Syverson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years. His father came to America about 1867. The mother had preceded him some three years, making the trip with her parents, the family locating in Mitchell county, Iowa, where Peter Syverson also located, and there these parents were married in 1872. They located in Martin county, Minnesota, a little south of where Ormsby stands, the father taking up a homestead there in 1872 on which he spent the rest of his life, engaging in general farming. He died April 21, 1904. His widow is still living in Ormsby. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Olans, Edward, Emma, Henry, John, Otto, and Mabel. Peter Syverson was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Long Lake.

Olans Syverson spent his boyhood on the home farm in Martin county, and he received his education in the public schools. He continued farming on the home place until he was twenty-five years old. In 1903 he engaged

in the harness and furniture business at Ormsby, which he has continued to the present time, with very favorable results all along the line. He carries a large and well-selected stock and has built up an extensive trade over the county. He bought one of the first stores established in Ormsby. In 1909 he became manager of the Ormsby Farmers' Grain Company, which he had helped to organize two years previously.

Mr. Syverson was married on June 8, 1904, to Tena Sorlie, of Arcadia, Wisconsin, a daughter of Jens J. Sorlie and wife. She was born in Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, June 29, 1879. To this union three children have been born, namely: Myron, born October 16, 1906; Stanley, born May 21, 1911; and Carol, born July 13, 1914.

Politically, Mr. Syverson is a Republican. He is at present village assessor, which office he has held ever since he came to Ormsby. He has also been clerk of the school board for the past ten years. He was for two years assessor of Galena township, Martin county. He has long been influential in the public life of his community.

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### BARNEY LOUGHRAN.

The venerable agriculturist, Barney Loughran, of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, was one of the earliest pioneers of this locality which he has seen transformed into one of the choice farming sections of the state, and he has performed well his part in the general upbuilding of the same. Although now eighty-six years of age he is hale and active, as a result of a well-spent life. He was born in Ireland in 1830, and is a son of Patrick and Alice (Quinn) Loughran, both of whom spent their lives in Ireland. The father was a carpenter by trade, also a small farmer. His family consisted of nine children, five of whom grew to maturity, namely: Elizabeth, who came to America and died at the home of the subject of this sketch; Patrick, who died in New York; John, who was very probably a Confederate soldier, was killed at the battle of Shilo; Michael, who died of cholera while on ship coming to America, and Barney of this sketch. The latter spent his boyhood in Ireland and attended school there. In April, 1857 he landed in New York City, having previously been employed three years in some iron works in England. He worked for a lumberman in New York for one year after his arrival there, then came west to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1858, where he remained until the spring of 1860, working as a freight weigher, for the city. From there he came to St. Paul, Minnesota, and worked on steamboats





MR. AND MRS. BAILEY LUTGHEAN.





on the Mississippi river during the Civil War, as fireman on mail packets, which hauled soldiers back and forth. He spent one winter in the Wisconsin pine woods with a lumber crew. In 1865 he came to Marquette county, on Lake Superior, where he worked for three years running a pump engine. In 1868 he came to Cottonwood county and pre-empted one hundred and sixty-seven acres, where he still lives, and later added eighty acres more, which he homesteaded. He and Robert Miller were the first two settlers in this community, and he has resided here ever since, a period of nearly half a century. He endured the usual hardships and privations of the pioneer settler and, by hard work and persistence, developed a good farm and a comfortable home and became one of the leading men of his township. He hauled lumber for Mankato with which to build his first dwelling. He was here during the three memorial "grasshopper years," when these insects destroyed all crops. He owns a valuable farm of two hundred fifty-three and three-fourths acres and has here carried on general farming and stock raising successfully. He has the deed signed by President Grant for pre-emption, which was the first deeded land in Cottonwood county; also has a deed signed by President Hayes for his homestead.

Mr. Loughran was married on December 16, 1872, to Mary Gallagher, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Drugan) Gallagher, both natives of County Tyrone, Ireland. The father came to America about 1850, when fourteen or fifteen years of age, making the voyage alone. The mother came with relatives when a girl. These parents were married in Cook county, Illinois. Mr. Gallagher was quite a dairyman, but followed various lines of endeavor. From Illinois he removed to Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming, and in 1869 came to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, locating just across the lake from Mr. Loughran. He pre-empted and bought a homestead right, acquiring in all three hundred and fifty acres. Here the death of the mother occurred. In 1903 a tornado devastated the farm, destroying the buildings and killing Mr. Gallagher and two daughters. To Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher eight children were born, six sons and two daughters, namely: Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, Rose Ann, Cahrls, Henry, Ellen and Jeanette.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loughran three children have been born, namely: John H., who is at home; Mary Alice, who is deceased; and T. Francis, who is at home. The daughter was the wife of Nick Jeffery.

Politically, Mr. Loughran is a Democrat. He has never taken an active interest in politics or sought office; however, he was at one time clerk of the local school board.

## GERALD DEMPSEY.

While the late Gerald Dempsey carried on a special line of work in such a manner as to gain a comfortable livelihood, ranking for many years among the leading farmers of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, he also belonged to that class of representative citizens who promote the public welfare while advancing individual success.

Mr. Dempsey was born in County Carlow, Ireland, August 29, 1845. He was a son of Charles and Lizzie (Kelly) Dempsey, both natives of the same locality in which Gerald was born, and there they grew up and were married. Both father and son were born on the same farm, which had been in the Dempsey family for several generations. Charles Dempsey and wife had two children, Louis, who still resides on the old homestead in Ireland, and Gerald, of this memoir. The great grandfather was a captain in the British army. The family has still in their possession a valuable ring which was given the captain by his troops in recognition of the esteem in which they held him.

Gerald Dempsey grew up on the homestead in his native land, and there he received his education, attending the monastery. He was twenty years of age when he immigrated to America. After spending a short time in Boston he went to Rochester, New York, then west to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1871, and there he was married on Thanksgiving Day, 1873, to Mary Ann Moore, who was born in Maryboro, Queens County, Ireland. She was a daughter of John and Ann (Fitzpatrick) Moore, both natives of Maryboro, Ireland, where they grew up, married and established their home, removing to America in 1861, arriving at Frankford, Pennsylvania, June 4, that year. Remaining there until after the Civil War, they came to Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in March, 1908, and the mother in August, 1910. Mr. Moore was a carpenter by trade, but he always owned and lived on a farm.

After their marriage, Mr. Dempsey and wife moved to a farm in Greene county, Iowa, where they spent twenty years, then came to the place on which the widow still resides in Cottonwood county, Minnesota. It formerly belonged to Allen Gardner, and it now contains six hundred and thirty-four acres, having originally contained four hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Dempsey added many improvements here, including the erection of a commodious dwelling house and other buildings. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and was a breeder of Hereford cattle. He

always kept large numbers of cattle. He was a man of sound judgment and executive ability and was very successful in his chosen life work. He was independent in politics, but usually supported the Republican party.

When Mr. Dempsey left Ireland he was given a letter of recommendation by Lord Wolseley, who owned an estate adjoining that of Mr. Dempsey's father. The brother of the subject of this sketch now owns both the homestead and the Lord Wolseley estate.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dempsey ten children were born, namely: Anna V. is the wife of Hugh Hammel; Elizabeth, Margaret and Mamie. Alice G. is a milliner by trade, but is now managing the home farm; Jane was next in order of birth; Sadie V. and Winnifred B. are teaching school; Catherine, who is now the wife of Walter Berger of Comfrey, Minnesota, was formerly a teacher; Martha A., the youngest child, is also a teacher. The late Mr. Dempsey was a Catholic and his family are members of that church.

The death of Gerald Dempsey occurred on June 29, 1914. There were in him sterling traits which commanded uniform confidence and regard, and his memory is today honored by all who knew him.

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#### PETER P. FAST.

One of the farmers of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, who is contented with his lot, is Peter P. Fast. He was born in Russia, March 10, 1868. He is a son of Peter and Anna (Tieszen) Fast, both natives of Russia, but the grandparents on both sides were born in Germany. Peter Fast, Sr., brought his family to America in 1874, locating in Turner county, South Dakota, where he took up a homestead. He came to the village of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in 1898, retiring from active life, and here his death occurred in 1908. His widow is still living here. He was a deacon in the Mennonite church.

Peter P. Fast, the only child of his parents, grew up on the home farm and received a limited education, in a private school, kept up by the community in which he lived in South Dakota. He engaged in farming there until 1900, when he came to his present farm in Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, where he now owns six hundred and twenty acres. He has made many valuable improvements here, including the erection of most of the buildings on the place, which are substantial and modern. He



carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He assisted in organizing the First National Bank at Mountain Lake, in which he has been a director since its organization.

Mr. Fast was married in 1889, to Katie Duerksen, a native of Russia, and ten children have been born to their union, namely: Abram P., who lives in Midway township, this county; Peter P., Jr., who is farming in Mountain Lake township; Katie, who is the wife of John Stoesz; Mary, Lizzie, Jacob, Henry, Anna, Frank and George are living at home.

Politically, Mr. Fast is a Republican. He is now serving as clerk of the district school board, and is a member of the Mennonite church.

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### CLAUS MELHEIM.

Among those who have come to Minnesota from Scandinavia, is Claus Melheim, implement dealer of Butterfield, Watonwan county, who was born in Norway, January 17, 1856, and is a son of Iver and Karn (Moe) Melheim, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married, emigrating with their family to Madelia, Minnesota, in 1871, where the father purchased eighty acres of land, but in 1872 moved to Odin township, Watonwan county, and bought a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he lived until 1902, when he moved to Butterfield, in which place his death occurred in March, 1906. His widow is still living in Butterfield, having attained the advanced age of eighty-eight years. The paternal grandparents, Bodolff and Gertrude Melheim, were natives of Norway, where he spent his life, but she came to America with the parents of Claus Melheim, and died on the farm in Odin township. The maternal grandparents, Peter and Karn Moe, lived and died on a farm in Norway. Iver Melheim, mentioned above, devoted his entire active life to general farming. His family consisted of seven children, namely: Bodolff, Peter, Claus, Gertrude, Karn, Dorothy, and Enner.

Claus Melheim spent his boyhood in Norway and there he received most of his education, and began life as a farmer on the old homestead, where he remained until coming to Butterfield in 1892. He was in his sixteenth year when he accompanied the family to the United States. Upon locating in Butterfield, he engaged in the farm implement business which he has continued to the present time with ever-increasing success. He carries a large line of all kinds of farming machinery and other articles.

Mr. Melheim was married in December, 1890, to Gertrude Falk, who was born in Norway, from which country she came to Wisconsin with her parents, and later the family located in Stephens county, Minnesota. She is a daughter of John Falk and wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Melheim four children were born, namely: Karn, Gertrude, Iver and Bodolf. They all survive.

Mr. Melheim has been active in public affairs. Politically, he is a Republican. He was chairman of Odin township for five years, and was county commissioner in 1893 and 1894 at the time the court house was built. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Butterfield.

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### O. A. BJOIN.

The first boy born in Riverdale township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, is a distinction that is claimed for O. A. Bjoin, the subject of this sketch. This event occurred on October 26, 1865. His father was Anderson Bjoin, a native of Norway, who came to America when a young man. He landed at New Orleans and drove an ox team from New Orleans to Minnesota. From here he went to Kansas, where he lived for a few years, and where he was married. He moved from Kansas to Illinois, making the journey by team over the entire distance. After farming for a few years in Illinois, he began loading up his personal chattels in a wagon and moved to Iowa. In 1864 he again moved, by the same method of transportation, coming to Riverside township, Watonwan county, Minnesota. Here he entered a homestead of eighty acres of government land on which he located and established his permanent home, and lived here the rest of his life.

Anderson Bjoin was twice married. By his first marriage there were three children: Anderson, who enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry, as soldier of the Civil War. He was killed in battle. Ole, the second son, was also a member of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Infantry, and was killed in battle. Lisse is the third child by this first marriage.

The second marriage of Anderson Bjoin was to Julia Ronninggen, a native of Norway. Following are the names of children by this marriage: John, Andrew, O. A., Lisse, Edward and Julia. The father was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and a Republican.

O. A. Bjoin was educated in the public schools of Riverdale township, Watonwan county, and worked on the farm in his early years. In 1890 he

bought a farm of eighty acres and started farming for himself. He continued in this business until 1902, when he moved to LaSalle and took the position of manager of the Eagle Roller Mill Company. For the past ten years he has been buying hogs for A. J. Leonard, of St. James, in connection with the management of the elevator.

Mr. Bjoin was married to Jennie Rinde, a daughter of Peter Rinde, of Madelia. To this union seven children have been born: Alma, Clara, George, Mabel, Stella, Lyda and Syvena. Mr. and Mrs. Bjoin are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican; his lodge affiliation is with the Woodmen, and the Modern Brotherhood of America.

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### S. J. SULEM.

S. J. Sulem is of Norwegian birth and Norwegian ancestry, another one of the Norwegian families that comprise a large part of the citizenship of Watonwan county, Minnesota. He was born in Lom, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, December 12, 1857. He is a son of John S. and Ingeborg (Vurvold) Sulem, both natives of Norway. The father was a merchant in Norway and came to America in 1873. He came to Minnesota and located in Long Lake township, Watonwan county, where he entered a homestead of eighty acres. Here he built a home and began the improvement of the land, which he continued to cultivate until 1905. In that year he sold his farm and removed to North Dakota, where he died in 1911. There were seven children in this family: S. J., Carrie, Bessie, Lezzie, Thomas, Mary and Helen. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

S. J. Sulem received his education in the public schools of Norway, working with his father during his early years. He came with his father to America in 1873, and worked on his father's farm for several years after coming here. In 1889 he went to Butterfield and was employed with the Scandinavian Farmers Trade Association for several years. In 1911 he opened up a general merchandise store in Butterfield and gave his whole attention to that business, which he has since continued. He has established a good trade in the town and surrounding country and is doing a successful business.

In 1895 Mr. Sulem was united in marriage with Anna Rempel, daughter of W. W. Rempel, of Butterfield, Minnesota. The children born to this union are: Ada, E., Ethel W., John W., Willard T., Myrtle E., Pearl M.,



Martha and Marie, (twins) Chester M. and Loraine. Mr. and Mrs. Sulem are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church; Mr. Sulem was an official in the local congregation.

Mr. Sulem is affiliated with the Democratic party. He has served as village recorder for about ten years, and president of the school board for about six years. At present he is serving as mayor of Butterfield.

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### SAMUEL JACKSON.

Samuel Jackson, the subject of this sketch, belongs to one of the sturdy Norwegian families who emigrated to this country in the years following the Civil War, and who have contributed so large a part to the development of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other northwestern states. Mr. Jackson was born in Norway, October 16, 1873, a son of Jacob S. Ekren and Kari (Nyhus) Jackson, both natives of Lesje, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway.

Jacob S. Ekren came to America in 1879 and settled on a farm in Chippewa county, Wisconsin, but did not live long after establishing himself a home there. He died in 1881. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ekren moved to Dover, Barron county, Wisconsin, and a few years after married her second husband, P. Murstad, of that place. She was the mother of four children by her first husband; Samuel, subject of this sketch; Mary, Peter and Julia.

The year after his father's death Samuel Jackson came to St. James to make his home with Gilbert Swensen. While here he attended the public schools of St. James for about two years. He then returned to Chetek, Barron county, Wisconsin, where he made his home with his parents. In 1895 he returned to St. James, Watonwan county, where he entered the employ of G. Swensen & Bro. in a general store, where he continued work until 1908. From 1909 to 1914 he served as deputy county auditor. In 1914 he was elected to the office of county treasurer of Watonwan county, which office he now holds.

In 1889 Mr. Jackson was united in marriage to Bertha Dalager, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Dalager, both natives of Valdres, Norway, and who had settled on a farm near Austin, Mower county, Minnesota. To this union four children have been born: Evelyn C., Iva J., Alba R., and Oliver S. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson are members of the Lutheran church.



## JENS L. LOBBEN.

One of the able and successful lawyers of Watonwan county is Jens L. Lobben, of St. James, who has been a leader of the local bar for a number of years and a conspicuous figure in the courts of this locality. He was born at Eker, Norway, August 1, 1862. He is a son of Andres L. and Sophia (Stangeby) Lobben. The father was born at Eker, October 18, 1830, and the mother's birth occurred March 15, 1834. They grew to maturity in Norway and were married there, June 7, 1861, and in the spring of 1875 they set sail for the United States, locating in Jackson, Wisconsin. The father received a good education and became a minister in the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. For some time he preached in Jackson and Trempealeau county. He came to St. James, Minnesota, in 1879, and became pastor of the church of his denomination in Albion township, also of the church in Longlake township and Rosendale township, Watonwan county. He also preached in St. James and at a church in Odin township, and he owned a farm one mile from St. James, which claimed most of his attention. He finally retired from active life and died in St. James, July 26, 1904. His widow survived until January 23, 1908. To these parents the following children were born: Jens L., of this sketch; Lars is living; Olaf, deceased; Dorothy, deceased; Marie is living; Andres, deceased; Peter is living; Carl, deceased.

Jens L. Lobben attended the public schools and a private school in Norway. He was twelve years old when he accompanied the family to Jackson, Wisconsin, where he attended the public schools for some time; later he was a student in the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa, for about three years. He came to St. James in 1879, and worked as a clerk and at other jobs, attending school during the winter months, including one winter at Mankato. He began the study of law in the office of J. W. Seager, and was admitted to the bar on January 30, 1896, and soon thereafter began the practice of his profession in St. James. After about six months he formed a partnership with his preceptor, Mr. Seager, under the firm name of Seager & Lobben. This partnership lasted until 1902, when it was dissolved, and Mr. Lobben returned to the office he occupied during the first months of his practice and has remained here to the present time. He has built up a large and satisfactory clientage and has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession. He was city attorney of St. James for a period of nine years, and he was elected mayor in 1914. He has been a member

of the board of education for four years. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He belongs to the Lutheran church. He is prominent in fraternal circles, and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Concordia Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, the Commandery, Knights Templar and Order of Eastern Star; also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Lobben was married in 1884, to Julia Andersen, of Linden, Brown county, Minnesota. She is a daughter of Hans Andersen, a farmer, who first came to Fillmore county, and later to Brown county, where his death occurred. His wife also died there. The village of Hanska was built on a part of the Andersen farm, Mr. Andersen having sold thirty acres for a townsite. To Mr. and Mrs. Andersen the following children were born: Anton lives in New Ulm; Dorothy married Frank J. Gove, of Boise, Idaho, and she died about thirty years ago, leaving two children, William and Dorothy; Mads lives in New Ulm; Ellen is unmarried; Julia, wife of Mr. Lobben, is the youngest.

Mr. Lobben is a stockholder and director in the St. James Telephone Company. He owns land in Polk county, Minnesota. He is descended from an old and highly esteemed Norwegian family, which lived on the same farm in Norway for generations consecutively. His paternal grandfather was Lars Lobben, a son of Christian Lobben, who was a son of John Lobben.

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#### ALFRED SLETTA.

Alfred Sletta was born in Riverdale township, Watonwan county, December 31, 1886, a son of Amund A. and Ingeborg (Ekorness) Sletta, who were both born in Norway. His father came to America when a young man, about 1877. Through friends from his native land who had preceded him to America, he had heard of the advantages offered ambitious young men in Minnesota, where many of his countrymen had found a home and a demand for their labor, so he came to this state directly after landing in New York. For the first year or two he found employment in different parts of the state. In 1885 he came to Watonwan county and located on a farm in Riverdale township, where he still resides. His wife died on

October 21, 1911. She was the mother of six children: O. E., Alfred, Ida A., John E., Anton I. and George. The father and mother were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Alfred Sletta received his elementary education in the district schools of Riverdale township, mostly in school No. 49, in that township. He afterward attended the school at St. James, and some years took a business course in the Mankato Commercial College. Following this he was for four years in the employ of Wyman, Partridge & Co., in Minneapolis. In the fall of 1910 he came to LaSalle and engaged in the general merchandise business. In February, 1913, he was appointed postmaster of LaSalle, in which office he is at present serving.

Alfred Sletta was married in June, 1910, to Marie Larson. To this union four children have been born: Ingvald A. L., Signe Louise, Alice Marie, and Arnold A. Mr. and Mrs. Sletta are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Sletta is an active worker in the Democratic party; his lodge affiliation is with the Modern Brotherhood of America. His store is modern in all respects, carrying a general line of merchandise, and is complete in its variety.

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### HANS M. VAGSTAD.

Hans M. Vagstad belongs to the colony of Norwegian emigrants who came to Minnesota in the earlier history of the state, and who make up a large part of the state's substantial citizenship. He was born in Norway, February 14, 1863, a son of Mads H. and Gurine (Riverdal) Vagstad, both natives of Norway. The father was a farmer in his native land and spent his entire life in that country. He died in 1913, his wife died in 1873, Hans M. being about ten years of age at the time of his mother's death. They had six children: Mathias, Hans M., Gabriel, Johanna, Kari and Sara.

Hans M. Vagstad received his education in the public schools of Norway, attending the high school for one year. He worked on his father's farm in his early years. In 1882, before he had reached his majority, with an ambition to seek a country where there was an opportunity for greater advantages for young men starting in life, he decided to come to America, where many others of his friends and countrymen had preceded him. In the early part of that year he came to this country and located in St. James, Minnesota. Here he worked for a time at the carpenter trade, and later



entered the employ of Hans Olsen in the implement business. He continued in this business for four or five years, in St. James, and then came to Ormsby and engaged in the implement business for himself. He has been in that business since 1901.

In 1912 Hans M. Vagstad and Anna C. Brumstad were united in marriage. She is the daughter of Ole Brumstad and wife of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Otis Herbert is their only child. Mr. and Mrs. Vagstad are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Woodmen lodge.

Ole Brumstad and wife are both natives of Norway; they married there, came to America, settled in Chippewa county, Wisconsin, where they still live.

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### FRED SOLETE.

A study of the merchant, the professional man, the artist, the preacher, statesman or inventor reveals the fact that their lives are no more excellent than the lives of farmers. Fred Solete, now living in retirement in Windom, found life good and successful on a farm in Cottonwood county, as have many others.

Mr. Solete was born in Germany, September 14, 1860, and is a son of Anton and Christena Solete, both natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married, and there spent their lives on a farm, both dying many years ago. The father was a soldier in the German army and fought in the wars against Austria, Denmark, Prussia and France. His family consisted of six children, namely: Fred, William, August, Walter, Mary and Christena.

Fred Solete grew up on his father's farm in Germany, and there he received a common-school education. After leaving school he served four years in the German army, then worked as a farm hand in his native land until he immigrated to the United States in 1893, locating at Windsor, Minnesota. He worked on the Omaha railroad for two years, then rented a farm in Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, for five years; then bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He prospered through hard work, the exercise of sound judgment and careful management and added to his original holdings until he became owner of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable and well improved land on which he carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale until 1915, when,



having accumulated a handsome competency, he retired from active life, moved to Windom where he purchased two acres on which stands a commodious home and is now living quietly, surrounded by all the comforts of life, as a result of his former years of activity along legitimate and well-defined lines.

Mr. Solete was married in 1888, to Anna Polzen, to which union three children have been born, namely: Fred, who married Louise Dahl, has one child, Violet; Walter married Anna Beber, and William, who is unmarried. These children were given good educational advantages.

Politically, Mr. Solete is an independent Republican. He has never sought political office, and has only served on the school board. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished unaided, having come to a strange land with very little capital, and by sheer courage and perseverance forged to the front over many obstacles.

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### GUNDER JACOBSON.

Gunder Jacobson was born in Norway, January 30, 1860. He was a son of Jacob Olsen, and Ingeborg (Gunderson) Jacobson, both natives of Norway. His father came to America in 1887 and settled among others of his countrymen in Riverdale township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, where he lived until about 1905, when he retired and removed to Madelia. He was the father of three children: Gunder, Ole and Jorgine. He was a member of the Norwegian church, and was a Republican in politics.

Gunder Jacobson received his education in Norway, and as a young man worked in a factory. He preceded his father in coming to America about five years. In 1882 he came to Madelia, Watonwan county, where he was employed as a clerk in the store of Bisbee & Olson for about five years. The second winter after coming to this state he attended school in Minneapolis, in order to acquire a better knowledge of the English language. In 1890, in partnership with Kyorlang Brothers, he opened up a general merchandise store in Madelia, and continued with this firm until 1897. In that year he sold his interest and went in partnership with S. Larson in another general merchandise store in Madelia. This partnership continued until 1902 when Mr. Jacobson sold his interest and started another store of the same line in partnership with Mr. Newgarll. In 1909 he again sold

out and for about three years thereafter he was in the employ of M. Olson, in Madelia. In 1912 he came to LaSalle and took a position as secretary and manager of the Watonwan County Co-operative Company's general merchandise store, where he is at present engaged.

In 1884 Mr. Jacobson was united in marriage with Lena M. Anderson. To this union nine children were born: Peter, deceased; Julla, John, Arthur, Mabel, Ralph, Lawrentz, Ruth and Helen.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican. While residing at Madelia, he was for six years a member of the village council.

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### BENJAMIN C. SANBORN.

This biographical memoir has to do with a pioneer character of unusual force, for the late Benjamin C. Sanborn, whose life chapter has been closed by the fate that awaits all, was for a number of years one of the influential citizens of Watonwan county, having come to this section in the frontier days, and assisted in bringing about the transformation of the country from the wild condition found by the first settlers, to its latter-day progress and improvement.

Benjamin C. Sanborn was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1844, and was a son of David and Frances (Cressey) Sanborn, both natives of that city also, where they grew up, were educated and married, later moving to New Hampshire, thence to Minnesota, locating in St. Paul about 1856. In that city B. C. Sanborn carried the first newspaper published in St. Paul—*The Pioneer*. David Sanborn later moved with his family to near Owatona, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, he working at his trade of stone mason and also engaged in farming.

Benjamin C. Sanborn received his education in the public schools, and was a member of the first class of Carleton College, of Northfield, Minnesota. When the Civil War came on, he enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served gallantly throughout the war, part of his service being against the Indians. After the war he entered the newspaper business at Northfield, Minnesota, in partnership with a Mr. Wheaton, remaining there until the spring of 1871, when he came to Madelia and started *The Times*, the first newspaper in Watonwan county. He continued to publish the same successfully until the spring of 1899, when

he retired and continued to live in Madelia, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1906. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1892. Before marriage, she was Martha A. Young, and was a daughter of William Young, a Methodist clergyman of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Sanborn were married in 1871. To their union the following children were born: Frances L., William Y., Jessie M. (deceased), and Eva A. Benjamin C. Sanborn was a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife was a Methodist.

William Y. Sanborn, publisher, of Madelia, was born in 1876 in that town, and there he grew up and attended the public schools, later was a student in Central high school of St. Paul for one year, also studied three years at Carlton College, which he left in the spring of 1899 to take charge of his father's newspaper, which he continued to manage with success until the spring of 1904. He served in Company B, Twelfth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, as a private, in the Spanish-American war. However, he did not get to the front, being stationed at Chickamauga and other southern points. After leaving Madelia in 1904 he went to Spokane, Washington, and other western towns, continuing newspaper work in the state of Washington until 1915, when he returned to Madelia and started *The News*, which he is still publishing. Mr. Sanborn was married in Topeka, Kansas, in 1906, to Gertrude Cies. Fraternally, he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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### JOHN DEWAR, SR.

Diversified farming in its truest sense calls for a methodical practice of a thorough rotation of crops. These things have been clearly understood and practiced by John Dewar, Sr., now living in retirement in Lewisville, Watonwan county.

Mr. Dewar was born in the vicinity of London, Ontario, Canada, November 3, 1841, and is a son of Duncan and Ann (Webb) Dewar, natives of Scotland and New York, respectively. The father came to America as a child with his parents, the family locating in the vicinity in which the subject of this sketch was born, in pioneer days, when the land was timbered and there the father developed a home and a farm by years of hard work. John and Margaret Dewar, the grandparents, died in Canada, the grandfather meeting death by a falling tree, after a life as a farmer, having located on what was known as Canada Company land. His family consisted of seven sons and one daughter. Robert and Margaret (Harrison) Webb, the ma-



ternal grandparents, were natives of England and Ireland, respectively. They first came to the state of New York, later moved to Canada, about 1838, locating near the Dewars, and there engaged in farming. Their family consisted of seven children. When advanced in years they came to Wisconsin, where the death of the grandfather occurred, after which the grandmother went to Michigan, where her death occurred. In his youth he was a sailor on a British man-of-war for many years, and took part in one of England's wars.

Duncan Dewar, mentioned above, grew up in Canada and was educated there and began farming in that country. In 1862 he came to Wisconsin, continuing farming in Marquette county until his death, and there also his wife died. They were the parents of ten children, named as follow: John, Robert, Margaret, Daniel, William, Betsie, Mary Ann, Duncan, Jennie and Katherine.

John Dewar, Sr. grew up on the home farm and he received his education in the common schools of Canada. He came to Marquette county, Wisconsin, about a year after his parents located there, and continued farming for awhile, removing to Minnesota in 1867, locating on land adjoining what is now the village of Lewisville, homesteading eighty acres, and later bought additional land of the government. Here he has resided for nearly a half century. He broke and improved his land and made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser. However, during the three years when the crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers, he was compelled to go to Blue Earth county and work for wages awhile. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres adjoining the village, which he finally sold. He also owns valuable timbered lands in northern Minnesota, and he retains his original one-fourth section at Lewisburg. In the fall of 1910 he built an attractive and modern home in the village and retired from active life. He is spending his declining years in the midst of plenty as a result of his earlier years of hard work and good management.

Mr. Dewar is a Republican, but independent in politics, and formerly held various offices in Antrim township. He belongs to the Christian church.

Mr. Dewar was married on May 15, 1864, at Oxford, Wisconsin, by Rev. T. Black, to Jane E. Marsden, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Annie M., Katie, Alice M., Thomas B. and Jessie J.

Mrs. John Dewar was the daughter of Thomas and Ann (Nixon) Marsden. Thomas Marsden was born in Ireland. They were married in



Ireland and came to this county about five years after marriage. To them were born eight children—five girls and three boys, as follows: John, Jane, Catherine, Mary Ann, Ellen, Elizabeth, Thomas and Christopher. The parents are dead. The mother died in Jackson, Minnesota; the father in Oxford, Wisconsin.

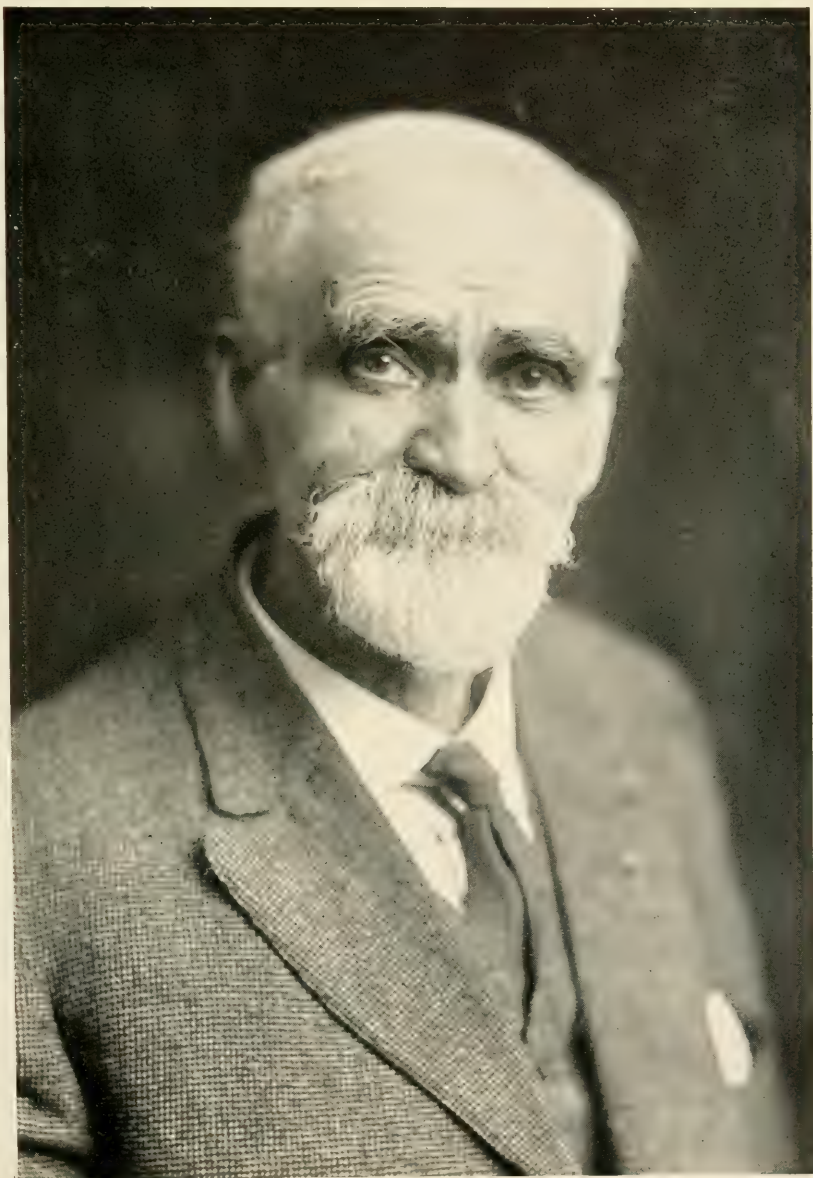
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### JOHN A. BROWN.

One of the best known citizens of Cottonwood county is the editor of the historical portion of this work, John A. Brown, of Windom, who is rendering efficient service as county commissioner and who has in many ways contributed to the welfare and advancement of his county. Mr. Brown was born in Symington, Ayrshire, Scotland, on August 8, 1841, and is the son of John and Elizabeth Brown. To these parents were born, besides the subject of this sketch, three other sons, namely: S. W., of West Salem, Wisconsin; J. S., of Eugene, Oregon, and W. L., of Linton, North Dakota. After securing some schooling in his native land, John A. Brown, in June, 1856, came to the United States, locating first at West Salem, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1878. He then came to Windom, Minnesota, where, until 1890, he engaged in agricultural pursuits. In November, 1890, Mr. Brown moved into the village of Windom, where he has since resided. In former years Mr. Brown was active and successful as a farmer, but has now relinquished the heavier labor of the farm and confines his active work to lighter gardening. He is financially interested in several local enterprises, being a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company, at Windom, and the State Bank of Storden.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Republican and has taken an active part in public affairs. In 1890 he was elected auditor of Cottonwood county, serving two years; was deputy county auditor from 1893 to 1900, when he was again elected county auditor and, by successive re-elections, served as such until 1910. In 1912 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, his term as such expiring the present year (1916), thus making practically twenty-four years of almost continuous service in the public offices of his county. This record is not only remarkable because of the years of service, but is a marked testimonial to the personal popularity of Mr. Brown, as well as to his efficiency and faithfulness as a public servant.

Fraternally, Mr. Brown is a member of Prudence Lodge No. 97, Ancient



JOHN A. BROWN.



Free and Accepted Masons, and LaGrange Post No. 79, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is adjutant. Mr. Brown's membership in the last-named order suggests an important epoch in his career. At the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion he enlisted, at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in Company B, Second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, of which he was appointed corporal, and then, quartermaster-sergeant. The regiment served in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi and was engaged in numberless raids and expeditions, and participated in the successful siege of Vicksburg, serving under Generals Grant and Sherman. After the conclusion of the Civil War, the Second Cavalry, with other cavalry regiments, under the command of General Custer, marched overland from Alexandria, Louisiana, to Austin, Texas, there being signs of trouble with Mexico. They remained in Texas until November 15, 1865, when they were honorably discharged, and on December 10, 1865, were paid off and mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin.

In his religious views Mr. Brown is a Presbyterian, but is affiliated with the Baptist church at Windom.

Mr. Brown was married, on October 22, 1880, at Windom, Minnesota, to Edith C. Allen, who was born near Lansing, Iowa, in October, 1857. To this union have been born the following children: S. Allen Brown, born August 19, 1881, is now auditor of Cottonwood county; E. Robert Brown, born March 22, 1883, is engaged in the banking business at Minneapolis; Lucy E. Brown, born December 26, 1885, is at home.

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### JAMES P. THORNE.

James P. Thorne was born in Rensselaerville, Albany county, New York, April 3, 1865, a son of William A. and Mary G. (Snyder) Thorne, both natives of New York. His father was a shoemaker by trade. About 1880 he moved to Vineland, New Jersey, where he lived his remaining days.

James P. Thorne was educated in the public schools of Albany county, New York, and as a young man he learned the shoemaking trade, working with his father. About 1882 he gave up the shoemaking business and took a position in a store as a clerk. For several years he was thus employed in a retail store, and then took a similar position in a wholesale drug store at Albany, New York. Then for about a year he was in the employ of O. S. Pullman, as traveling salesman. In 1887 he came to Elmore, Minnesota, and



entered the employ of W. O. Dustin, with whom he continued for fourteen years. In 1901 he came to Jeffers and opened up a general store in partnership with Mr. Dustin, under the firm name of Thorne & Dustin. In a short time this firm established a good trade and they have continued to do a prosperous business, with an increase of patronage from year to year.

Mr. Thorne was married, in 1902, to Marian Derdge. They have no children. Mr. Thorne is a Republican and has served as a member of the school board, and also as village treasurer. He is a stockholder and director of the State Bank at Jeffers. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order, including a membership in the blue lodge at Westbrook; the chapter at Windom; the commandery at Fairmount and the shriners, at Minneapolis.

Mr. Thorne's store is up-to-date in all of its features. His stock is extensive and includes a splendid variety. His store enjoys a splendid patronage throughout the community.

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### CHRIS L. OTTUM.

Chris L. Ottum, a successful farmer, of Long Lake township, Watonwan county, was born in Norway, March 18, 1859, and is a son of Lars C. and Gertrude (Serum) Ottum, both natives of Norway, where they lived until immigrating to America with their family in 1862, locating in Wisconsin, but a year later they came on to Olmstead county, Minnesota, where they spent two years, then moved to Steele county for one year. In 1866 they came to Watonwan county, locating in section 22, Long Lake township, homesteading eighty acres, later buying eighty acres additional, and improving a good farm from the raw prairie, on which these parents spent the rest of their lives. They and their children helped to organize the Long Lake Norwegian Lutheran church. There are five of the children, namely: Anna is the wife of Ed. Olson, Christina, Chris L. of this sketch, John, and Julia is the wife of John H. Burdell.

Chris L. Ottum was three years old when his parents brought him to America. He received his education in the public schools here and helped his father with the work on the farm and has remained a farmer. He has lived on the same farm, which consists of two hundred acres, for the past thirty-two years. He also owns eighty acres of the old homestead and forty acres in Martin county. He has placed his land under excellent improvements, especially his home place, which he has developed from the wild prairie. He has a comfortable home and such convenient outbuildings as

his needs require. In connection with general farming he raises considerable live stock, especially a good grade of Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs.

Mr. Ottum was married, March 18, 1883, to Mary K. Qualley, who was born in Moore county, June 13, 1857, in Nevada township, Moore county, Minnesota. She is a daughter of Knut and Anna J. (Rudie) Qualley, natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota many years ago. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ottum: Anna Josephine, born December 31, 1883, died April 11, 1914; Clara Louisa, born July 23, 1885; Ella Celina, born August 3, 1887; Gertrude, born July 19, 1889; Selma Melissa, born September 6, 1891; Otto Leonard, August 16, 1896; Clarence John, born November 24, 1894; died February 2, 1898, and Clarence John, born September 13, 1898.

Politically, Mr. Ottum is a Republican. He was formerly township supervisor. He is a member of the Long Lake Norwegian Lutheran church. He came to Minnesota four years before his wife came, and married in Iowa; then came to Minnesota.

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#### HERMAN C. KRAUSE.

Herman C. Krause, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Germantown township, Cottonwood county, owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on rural route No. 1, out of Sanborn, and for years identified with the work of developing the interests of that part of the county, is a native of Germany, but has lived in Minnesota ever since he was two years old. He was born on December 6, 1871, son of Edward and Elizabeth (Warm) Krause, both natives of Germany, the former born on October 2, 1833, the latter born on November 14, 1836, and who became pioneers of this section of Minnesota.

Edward Krause was the owner of a farm in Germany. He married on October 19, 1858, and continued living on that farm until the fall of 1873, when he sold out and with his family came to the United States, proceeding to Minnesota, locating at New Ulm, from which place, in the spring of 1874, he moved into Cottonwood county and homesteaded a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 32, Germantown township, where he established his home. The country thereabout at that time was all wild and there were no roads established. Edward Krause built a dug-out, covered the same with a sod roof and in that humble abode he and his family

made their home until he was able to erect a more substantial dwelling in the spring of 1879. He suffered, as did all the pioneers in this section of the state, during the "lean" years of those early days, having no crop at all in the memorable grasshopper year, but presently began to prosper and eventually became a substantial farmer. He went in extensively for stock raising during the early years and did well. In 1899 he sold his farm to Nicholas Meyer and retired from active labor. In 1904 his wife died and he thereafter made his home with his son, Herman, the subject of this sketch, until 1913, when he died at his son's home. To Edward Krause and wife were born six children, of whom Herman C. was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follows: Caroline, who married Rudolph Schmidt of Storden township; Minnie, who married William Matzke, of Germantown township; Augusta, who married Albert Stern, of Springfield, upon whose death she married Edward Arnesdorf, of Lamberton; Anna, who is unmarried, and Mary, wife of Herman Senst, of Highwater township.

It was on this farm of Edward Krause that Frank and Jesse James stopped overnight about the 17th of September, 1876. Mr. Krause at that time had no house, only a dugout, and he had no horses, only oxen. Both Frank and Jesse James were wounded. Mr. Krause washed their wounds and put bandages around them; they paid him for the work he had done, but Mr. Krause did not know that they were the James boys, nor of the bank robbery, till the day after they left.

Herman C. Krause was not three years old when his parents located in Germantown township and he grew up on the homestead farm there, receiving his schooling in the primitive school of that neighborhood. At the age of fifteen he began working on his own account and for five years was engaged working on farms in that locality, after which he began working for his father and was thus employed for three years, at the end of which time he began working on the railroad, but after two years of that form of employment, in 1890, returned to farming and two years later, in 1892, bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved prairie land in section 29, Germantown township, which he set about improving. Following his marriage in 1896 he rented his father's farm and for four years operated that place as well as his own and began to do well in his operations. In the fall of 1899 he built a substantial barn on his own place and the next year erected a comfortable dwelling house, where he and his family ever since have been very pleasantly situated. Mr. Krause has his quarter section all under cultivation, well tiled and well improved, among the attractive features of the place being a fine grove of four acres. In addi-



tion to his farming. Mr. Krause has found time to devote a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs; served for some time as a member of the board of supervisors and for the past ten years has been a member of the school board in district 35. He also is a stockholder in the Highwater Telephone Company and in the Farmers Elevator Company, the State Bank and the farmers store at Jeffers. He is at present a director of the Highwater Telephone Company and also a director of the Farmers Elevator Company.

In 1896 Herman C. Krause was united in marriage to Mary Stern, of Springfield, Brown county, Minnesota, and to this union six children have been born, Otto, Rudolph, Ella, Erhart, Lydia and Arthur, all of whom are living save Otto, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Krause are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Krause for some time served as a member of the official board of the same.

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### NIELS SKJEDSER.

One of the excellent pioneer citizens of Watonwan county was the late Niels Skjedser, who, through his own efforts forged to the front as a general agriculturist, becoming owner of a good farm in Long Lake township, where he was held in high esteem by his neighbors and friends for his manly qualities. He was born in Norway, June 5, 1847, and was a son of Peter Nelson and Anna Nelson. The parents of the subject of this sketch were natives of Norway, where the father lived until the seventies, when he came to America, locating near Cassen, Minnesota, but soon thereafter moved to Watonwan county, this state, where he spent the rest of his life on a farm. The mother died in Norway when our subject was nineteen years of age.

Niels Skjedser grew up in Norway and there attended school, immigrating to the United States during the latter sixties, and homesteaded land in Odin township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, but never proved up on it; however, he developed three farms in Long Lake township. He resided in St. James during his last days, where his death occurred, April 16, 1907. He was a member of the school board.

Mr. Skjedser was married on November 11, 1881, to Sophia Onstad, who was born in Nicollet county, Minnesota, and is a daughter of Ole and Ingeborg (Onstad) Onstad, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in 1863, locating at Coon Prairie, Wisconsin, their



nearest market being LaCrosse, about thirty miles distant. In the spring of 1865 they moved to Nicollet county, Minnesota, about the time of the Indian outbreak, and the father hauled provisions to the soldiers at Ft. Ridgely. Later he came to Watonwan county and took up a homestead on the shore of Long Lake, to which he moved in 1867, and there continued to reside for a period of fifteen years, with the exception of three years spent at Oclair, during the grasshopper plague. He finally removed to Polk county, this state, where he and his wife still reside, now living retired, after successfully farming for a number of decades. The house they built in Watonwan county, served for the first postoffice in the community, and was also the general stopping place for all travelers. Mr. Onstad cut the timber near Mankato, which he had sawed there, then hauled the lumber to his homestead here. The postoffice was retained at his place several years, even after the village of St. James was started. It was known as Norwegian postoffice. Mr. Onstad's wife and two children, Peter, who now lives at Ada, and Sophia, widow of the subject of this sketch, lived in a dugout, while he was away getting lumber for their house. During this period a terrific snow storm drove three pioneer trappers to the dugout, where they remained three days, and traded furs for mittens which Mrs. Onstad had made.

The widow of the subject of this sketch remarried, in 1909, to Andrew Shellum, of Nelson township, Watonwan county. He was a son of Andrew Shellum, Sr. The second husband died on February 15, 1910. To her first marriage two children were born, namely: Anna, who married Ole Iverson; and Olaf, still at home. Their father was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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#### LAURITZ LARSON.

One of the successful farmers of Long Lake township, Watonwan county, who has tried to apply the most modern methods of tilling the soil is Lauritz Larson, who was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, June 21, 1867. He is a son of Hans and Karen (Buroson) Larson, both natives of Norway, where they resided until immigrating to America in 1855, locating in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on government land, and there resided until 1870, then came to Watonwan county, Minnesota, buying the farm on which the subject of this sketch now resides, in Long Lake township, the father becoming owner of two hundred and eighty acres here on which he erected the

buildings and made general improvements, and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, both dying on the farm in 1913. They were members of the Long Lake Norwegian Lutheran church. He was active in the affairs of the community and for some time held the office of township supervisor. His family consisted of six children, namely: Borea, Ole, Thorwald, Johanah, Anna and Lauritz.

The subject of this sketch grew up on the home farm and worked with his father when a boy. He received a common-school education. He has remained on the homestead and owns three hundred and sixty-seven acres of well improved and productive land. He has erected the present substantial and attractive buildings. He carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, making a specialty of breeding full-blood Jersey cattle and full-blood Clydesdale horses. His fine stock are greatly admired by all who see them.

Mr. Larson was married in 1892, to Sophia Olson, who was born in Sweden, from which country she came to America when young. She is a daughter of Ole Olson, who came to Watonwan county many years ago. He is now deceased. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson: Henry, Carl, Ludwig, Otto, Amel, Alma, the latter being deceased; Ella, Anna, and Samuel.

Politically, Mr. Larson is independent. He has held the office of clerk of the school board in his district for the past twenty-two years and is still in office. He has been chairman of the township board for nearly two years.

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### JENS T. MUSLAND.

Jens T. Musland, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Storden, is a native of Norway, born on August 8, 1872, son of Torgger and Elizabeth (Landa) Musland, farming people, who are still living in their native land and to whom six children have been born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Michael, Torgger, Ingwahl, Hans and Anna.

Jens T. Musland received his schooling in the public schools of his native land and in 1888, he then being sixteen years of age, came to the United States, locating in Story county, Iowa, where he remained about five

years, at the end of which time he moved to Ida county, same state, where he remained about ten years and where he married in 1902. The next year, 1903, he and his wife came to Minnesota and settled in Cottonwood county, first locating in Springfield township, but presently moving to Rose Hill township, where they remained until 1913, when Mr. Musland bought the farm on which he and his family are now living in Storden township. The Musland farm is a quarter section in section 20 of Storden township and is one of the best-kept places in that neighborhood, well improved and cultivated along modern lines. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Musland has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well, being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that section of the county. He is "independent" in his political views on questions of local government and takes a good citizen's interest in politics, but has not been a seeker after public office.

As noted above, Jens T. Musland was married in 1902, the year before he came to Minnesota, his wife being Louise Olson, to which union two children have been born, Elizabeth and Melvin. Mr. and Mrs. Musland are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in all local good works, being willing promoters of any cause designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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#### CHARLES H. COOLEY.

Charles H. Cooley was born in Washington, Fillmore county, Minnesota, July 31, 1870, a son of George B. Cooley, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, December 6, 1824. His mother's maiden name was Catherine Garber, born in Pennsylvania. She died in 1871. His father was again married, to Evelyn Houck. The children of the first wife were: William L., now living in California, and Charles H. Children by the second wife were: Herbert, Albert, Nellie, Fred and Eva.

George R. Cooley followed the occupation of farmer and dairyman in St. Lawrence county, New York. In 1860 he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and engaged in farming this land until about 1890. At that time he retired from active work and moved to Heron Lake, Jackson county, Minnesota, where he still lives.

Charles H. Cooley, subject of this sketch, received his education in the

public schools of Fillmore county, and afterward attended school at Heron Lake, Jackson county. In his younger years he was employed for a time as a clerk in a store at Heron Lake. In 1889 he came to Madelia, Minnesota, and took a position as clerk in a store at that place, and held that position for about ten years. In 1905 he opened up a general hardware and implement store in Madelia and has continued in that business since.

On July 8, 1896, Charles H. Cooley and Mary E. Hammond were united in marriage. Mrs. Cooley is a daughter of John and Anne W. (Thomas) Hammond, of Madelia, Minnesota. To this union four children have been born: John G., Eunice, William R. and Russell C. Mr. and Mrs. Cooley are members of the Christian church.

Politically, Mr. Cooley is independent, exercising his own judgment as to the character and qualification of the candidate for whom he casts his vote, without regard to the party affiliation of the candidate. He has not been an aspirant for office himself, being content to devote his energies to his private business and discharge his duties as a private citizen of the community. He is a member of the Masonic order, and also of the Woodmen.

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### FREDERICK ABEL.

Among the thrifty German farmers who have established homes in Long Lake township, Watonwan county, is Frederick Abel, who was born in Germany, September 19, 1850. He is a son of Michael and Anna (Huske) Abel, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, were married and established their home. There the father spent his life, but after his death the mother immigrated to America, in 1883, spending the rest of her life in DeWitt county, Illinois.

Frederick Abel grew up in the country, his father being a farm foreman, and he received a limited common-school education in his native land. When twenty-two years old he set sail for the new world, landing in Baltimore, June 29, 1872. He spent two years at Annapolis, that state, then came to Chicago, where he spent two years, and for eighteen years he worked in Cook and DeWitt counties, Illinois, coming to Watonwan county, Minnesota, in 1892, locating on the farm where he still lives, in St. James and Long Lake townships, where he owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty-three acres, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation, carrying on general farming and stock raising most successfully.



Mr. Abel was married on February 25, 1873, in Annapolis, Maryland, to Emilia Golz, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1871, with other members of her family, her parents, Henry and Eva Golz, coming in 1872. Later they came on to Chicago, where he died. The mother's death occurred about twenty-eight miles from Chicago. Mr. Golz served several years in the German army. He devoted his active life to farming.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Abel: Tillie, deceased; William, living; Emilia and Anna, both deceased; Daniel, living; Fred, deceased; Gustav and Hulda, all three deceased; John and Henry, both living; Mary, deceased; Fred, living; Herman, deceased; Selma, Lydia, both living; Minnie and Alma, both deceased.

Politically, Mr. Abel is a Republican, sometimes voting independently. He is active in the affairs of his community, is now serving his second term as justice of the peace, and for twelve years was school director, filling these offices most ably and acceptably. He and family are members of the Lutheran church of St. James, of which he has been a trustee for twenty years and an active worker.

Emma Abel, the seven-year-old daughter of Gustav Abel (deceased), son of subject, is now living with Frederick Abel and wife. She goes to school.

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### JOHN C. HUFFMAN.

John C. Huffman, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of eighty acres in the vicinity of Storden, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Schuylkill county, that state, August 23, 1876, son of William and Elizabeth Huffman, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania, who later became pioneers of this section of Minnesota and are now living comfortably retired at Jeffers.

William Huffman was born on February 14, 1853, son of Martin and Barbara Huffman, German farming people, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of six children, William, Kizmer, Anna, Agnes, Josephine and Elizabeth. When he was nineteen years old William Huffman came to the United States, arriving in Pennsylvania in October, 1872. He began working in the coal mines in Schuylkill county and there married. In 1875 he came to Minnesota and located at St. Peter, where he worked in the limekilns for about two years, at the end of which

time he moved over into this part of the state and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Storden township, Cottonwood county, where he established his home and where he lived until 1910, in which year he sold that farm and moved to another farm in that same township, where he lived until his retirement and removal, in 1912, to Jeffers, where he now lives. William Huffman is a Democrat and has for many years given close attention to local political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being William (deceased), Margaret, Martha, Tracy, Henry (deceased), William, Josephine and Elizabeth.

John C. Huffman was but an infant in arms when his parents came to Minnesota from Pennsylvania and was but two or three years old when they took up their residence in Cottonwood county. He grew to manhood on the paternal homestead in Storden township, receiving his schooling in the public schools in the neighborhood of his home, and when a young man began farming on his own account. In 1899 he bought the farm on which he is now living and where he has lived ever since that time and he and his family are very pleasantly situated there. Mr. Huffman has a well-improved farm of eighty acres and is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. He is a Democrat and for years has been a member of the school board in his home township.

Mr. Huffman has been twice married. In his young manhood he married Emma Frederickson and to that union three children were born, Elmer, Blanche and Gordon, the latter of whom is deceased. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. Huffman married, May 24, 1904, Emma Carey, who was born in Cottonwood county, daughter and only child of John and Zelia Arzalia Carey, pioneers of that county. John Carey, a native of New York state, was an honored veteran of the Civil War, having served throughout the struggle between the states as a member of Company I, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, attached to General Butler's brigade. A few years after the war he came to Minnesota and shortly thereafter settled in Cottonwood county, one of the useful and influential pioneers of this section of the state. Mrs. Huffman for sixteen years previous to her marriage was one of the best-known members of Cottonwood county's able corps of public-school teachers and in that connection rendered a most valuable service to the community at large. To John C. and Emma (Carey) Huffman two children have been born,

Zelia Mary and Nora Belle. Mrs. Huffman is a member of the Baptist church and both she and Mr. Huffman take a warm interest in neighborhood good works, influential factors in the development of the community's best interests in a general, social and cultural way.

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### GUSTAV LINDQUIST.

The present generation owes a debt of gratitude to the old pioneers who braved the wilds and the Indians of Watonwan and adjoining counties, carved out homes in the wilderness and made this country what it is today. Gustav Lindquist, a venerable farmer of Long Lake township, is of this worthy band. During the half century that he has lived here he has noted great changes on every side and has been a useful and honored citizen.

Mr. Lindquist was born in Sweden, March 25, 1839. He is a son of Johan and Marie Lindquist, both natives of Sweden, from which country they came to America in 1867, locating in Scandia, near Stillwater, Washington county, Minnesota, and there the mother died, the father's death occurring in Stillwater. They lived on land in Washington county, which their son Gustav had bought and given them. To these parents eight children were born, namely: Anna, Stina, Melisina, Gustav, Augustina, Carrie, Orin, and Andrew.

Gustav Lindquist grew to manhood in Sweden, where he attended school, and he immigrated to the United States in 1865. He located in Washington county, Minnesota, where he worked in a tannery and also in a sawmill for some time, later became a railroad contractor at Lake Crystal, being boss for two years of a construction gang, working from LeSueur to Lake Crystal, when the Omaha railroad was built through this part of the state. In 1869 he homesteaded eighty acres in section 10, Long Lake township, Watonwan county. He paid sixteen dollars for lumber with which to erect a shack, leaving him only six dollars with which to hire it hauled from Mankato to his claim. He lived in this rude dwelling for five years without any further expense on it. He has continued to reside on this land for a period of forty-seven years. He gradually improved his land and finally erected a large and substantial home and a number of convenient outbuildings, also added to his original holdings until he now owns over one section of excellent land, and is one of the leading general farmers and stock raisers in his township, making a specialty of raising full-blooded Percheron horses, keeping a fine stal-



lion of this breed; also raises full-blooded Shorthorn cattle. He has owned four fine stallions since he first started in the business. He has done much to encourage better stock raising in his community. He owns a share in the farmers elevator at St. James, and has three valuable residences in St. James.

Mr. Lindquist was married in 1869, in Nicollet county, to Augusta Carlson, a native of Sweden, who came with her parents to Nicollet county, Minnesota, where they located. Five children, all living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lindquist, namely: Christine, born on November 26, 1869, is the wife of Elof Erickson; Edward J., February 14, 1872; C. Albert, May 25, 1874; Tilla E., February 19, 1877, is the wife of O. K. Hogen; August E., September 26, 1879.

Politically, Mr. Linquist is a Republican. He has never been very active in political matters, not caring for office. He belongs to the Kansas Lake Swedish Lutheran church.

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#### HANS A. HAUGEN.

Hans A. Haugen, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Rosendale township, Watonwan county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 2, and long recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood, is a native of Norway, born in Lom, Gudbrandsdalen, on March 18, 1874. He is a son of Anders and Sisil Vekkin, who are still living there, parents of five children, of whom Hans A. was the first-born, the others being Anna, Inga, Bertha and Embjor.

Hans A. Haugen received his education in his native land and when eighteen years of age, in 1892, came to the United States, settling in Winnebago county, Iowa. He worked on a farm there for a couple of years, at the end of which time, in 1894, he came to Minnesota and located in Watonwan county, where he worked on farms until his marriage, in 1897, when he rented different farms until 1912. In that year he bought his present farm, where he ever since has made his home. In 1915 he built a fine residence on the farm and has otherwise improved the place, until it is now regarded as one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Haugen has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well, he and his family now being comfortably situated.

In 1897 Hans A. Haugen was married to Barro Bakke, who was born



in Norway in 1882, daughter of Imbert and Gunhild Bakke. Her mother was remarried in Norway to Knut Teigen and came to Minnesota in 1892 and settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 6, Rosendale township, Watonwan county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Teigen dying in 1915, and his widow in 1916.

To Mr. and Mrs. Haugen ten children were born: Oliver, Gena, Sigurd, Emma, Ingvald, Adolph, Mabel, Helen, Myrtle and Luella, all of whom are living. The mother of these children died on the 18th of February, 1915, and on June 7, 1916, Mr. Haugen married Laura Laugeness, who was born in Lom, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, March 31, 1884, the daughter of Ole and Raguhild Laugeness. She received a good education in her native land, her grandfather, Lars Peterson, having been a school teacher and a highly cultured man. She came to the United States in 1904, and for six years taught school in North Dakota.

Mr. Haugen is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church in Rosendale and takes an earnest interest in the general affairs of same, as well as in all neighborhood good works. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been an aspirant for public office.

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### WILLARD C. SMITH.

Willard C. Smith, a substantial farmer of Lakeside township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a farm of one hundred and ten acres in the vicinity of Bingham Lake, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in St. Charles township, Winona county, March 10, 1870, son of C. D. and Jane (Pringle) Smith, who came to this state from Wisconsin about the year 1865 and settled in Winona county. They homesteaded a farm in St. Charles township, that county, and there spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Willard C. was the second in order of birth, the others being Charles, Irving, Lottie, Walter, Grant, Lillie, Lucas and Benjamin.

Willard C. Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Winona county, obtaining his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and as a young man began farming for himself in that same neighborhood. He was married in 1893 and in 1900 he disposed of his interests in Winona county and came to this part of the state, settling in Cottonwood county. Upon arriving here he located on a farm in Carson township, but three years

later moved to Lakeside township, where he ever since has made his home. In 1909 he bought a farm of eighty acres, the place on which he has since made his home and where he is now living, and proceeded to improve the same, all the present improvements on the place having been made by him. As he prospered in his farming operations, Mr. Smith has added to his land holdings and now owns a fine farm of one hundred and ten acres. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done well with his Holstein cattle and his Chester White hogs. Mr. Smith is a Republican and since locating in Cottonwood county has given close attention to local civic affairs. For four years he was chairman of the township board and he also has served as a member of the school board for six or seven years. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

On March 8, 1893, Willard C. Smith was united in marriage to Bertha Persons, daughter of George Persons, and to this union nine children have been born, Goldie M., Sylvia, Pearl, Willard, Ruby, Chauncey, Bertha, Beatrice and one, the fourth in order of birth, who died in infancy. The Smiths have a very pleasant farm home and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the neighborhood in which they live.

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### EMIL H. EICHSTAD.

Emil H. Eichstad, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, and the proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Jeffers, is a native son of Cottonwood county and has lived there all his life. He was born on a homestead farm in Amboy township, April 9, 1884, son of August and Louise (Borgholz) Eichstad, natives of Germany, the former of whom was born on March 8, 1840, and the latter, May 1, 1847, who became pioneers of this section of Minnesota and are now living at Jeffers, comfortably retired.

August Eichstad and his wife came to America in 1882 and proceeded to Minnesota, coming on out to this part of the state and settling in Cottonwood county. Mr. Eichstad homesteaded a tract in Amboy township, established his home there and proceeded to develop his farm. He was successful in his operations and became the owner of a half section of land, for years being regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that vicinity. He continued his residence on the farm until 1913, when he and his wife moved

to the village of Jeffers, where they are now living, pleasantly situated. Mr. Eichstad is a Republican and ever since coming to Minnesota has taken an earnest interest in local political affairs. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There are five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Frank, William, Anna and August.

Emil Eichstad was reared on the paternal farm in Amboy township, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and grew up to the life of the farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing the same. In 1906, the year of his marriage, he bought the northeast quarter of section 2 in Storden township, established his home there and has ever since resided there. He has brought his farm to an excellent state of cultivation and has the same well improved. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. He has a good farm residence and he and his family are very comfortably situated.

On October 3, 1906, Emil H. Eichstad was united in marriage to Martha Krahn and to that union four children have been born, Elmer, Ervin, Ada and a baby boy. Mr. and Mrs. Eichstad are members of the Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, willing promoters of all movements having to do with the community welfare. Mr. Eichstad is a Republican and takes a popular interest in local political affairs.

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#### T. P. CASSEM.

T. P. Cassem, one of the prominent and successful farmers and stock raisers, of Long Lake township, was born in Grundy county, Illinois, in 1855, being the son of Peter and Anna (Heggem) Cassem.

Peter and Anna Cassem were natives of Norway, and came to the United States immediately after their marriage in 1854. They located on a farm near Lisbon, Illinois, where they remained until their death some years later. To them were born three children: T. P., Eli and Christania.

T. P. Cassem received his education in the schools of Illinois and grew to manhood there, after which he was engaged in farming for himself for five years before going to Storey, Iowa. He was here in the mercantile busi-





T. P. CASSEM AND FAMILY.





ness for twelve years, when he sold and removed to Lake City, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for three years. In 1904 he engaged in farming at Tracy, Minnesota, and remained here until 1907, when he purchased his three-hundred-acre farm in Long Lake township and Odin village. He does general farming, and raises full-blood Duroc-Jersey hogs as well as full-blood Shorthorn cattle.

In 1881 T. P. Cassem was united in marriage to Caroline Nelson, the daughter of Knute Nelson and Ella Nelson, natives of Norway. Mrs. Cassem was born in Illinois and later came to Minnesota with her parents.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cassem have been born the following children: Perry James, Clarence, Alfred, Elmer, Palmer, deceased; Cora Tillie and William H. The family are members of the United Lutheran church.

Fraternally, Mr. Cassem is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has served his township as justice of the peace for six years.

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#### HERMAN A. SENST.

Herman A. Senst, a substantial farmer of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that township besides land in Clay county, member of the board of supervisors of his home township, treasurer of the Highwater Telephone Company, a director of the Farmers State Bank of Jeffers and of the elevator company at that place and otherwise identified with the general interests of that community, is a native of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a farm in Wabasha county, this state, August 27, 1871, son of Gottfried and Henrietta (Pultz) Senst, natives of Germany, who became early settlers in Minnesota, where they spent their last days.

Gottfried Senst was a weaver in his native land and in the early sixties came to the United States, proceeding directly to Minnesota and settling in Goodhue county. Five years later he moved with his family to Wabasha county, where he established his home and spent the rest of his active life. Upon his retirement from the active labors of the farm he moved over into Cottonwood county and there his last days were spent. He and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Henrietta Fredericka, Maria, Otto and Siegmund.

Herman A. Senst was reared on the paternal farm in Wabasha county

and received his schooling in the neighborhood of his home. As a young man he moved into Cottonwood county and began farming in Highwater township. In 1895 he married and in 1898 he bought the quarter section in Highwater township on which he now lives and which he has developed in fine shape, his farm being well improved and profitably cultivated, all the improvements on the same having been made by himself. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Senst has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well. For ten years past he has given particular attention to the breeding of Duroc-Jersey hogs. In addition to his home farm Mr. Senst is the owner of a one-half interest in two hundred and forty acres in Clay county, is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers State Bank of Jeffers, a director of the Farmers Elevator Company at Jeffers and treasurer of the Highwater Telephone Company, in the affairs of all of which concerns he takes an active interest. Mr. Senst also has given close attention to local governmental affairs and is a member of the board of supervisors of Highwater township and treasurer of his home school district.

On March 14, 1895, Herman A. Senst was united in marriage to Marie Krause and to this union five children have been born, Albert R., Clara E., Gilbert M., Arthur L. and Florence L. Mr. and Mrs. Senst are members of the German Lutheran church, in the various beneficences of which they take an active interest and Mr. Senst has been a member of the board of trustees of the church for many years. They have a pleasant home and the general attractiveness of their home place is enhanced by a well-kept grove.

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### ALFRED J. McCLEAN.

Alfred J. McClean, well-known dealer in real estate at Madelia and for years one of the most active factors in the development of this region, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Lake Crystal, in Blue Earth county, April 22, 1877, son of James and Annie (Smith) McClean, both natives of the state of New York, the former born in Niagara county and the latter near the city of Albany, the capital of that state, who became residents of the state of Minnesota in the days of their youth and have ever since resided in this state, now living pleasantly situated on a fine farm in Madelia township, Watonwan county.

James McClean was about seventeen years old when he came to Minne-

sota with his parents, the family settling in Blue Earth county, where, in the vicinity of Lake Crystal, James McClean was engaged in farming until 1870, when he moved into Cottonwood county and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land, remaining there for a few years, or until after his marriage, when he returned to Lake Crystal and there engaged in business, remaining there until 1892, in which year he moved onto a farm near Madelia, where he remained ten years. In 1902 he sold that farm and moved to Lewisville, in Watonwan county, where he and his eldest son, Alfred J., engaged in the general mercantile business. After a year thus engaged, James McClean left the store in the charge of his son and bought a farm of five hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Madelia, where he remained until 1910, when he sold that farm to advantage and moved to Madelia, where he and his son engaged in the lumber business and were thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time, in 1914, he sold his lumber interests and in the spring of 1915 moved to another farm in Madelia township, where he is now living. James McClean is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom Alfred J. was the first-born, the others being Gertrude, Jessie, Mary, Ray, Frank and James.

Alfred J. McClean received his schooling in the public schools of Lake Crystal and in the schools of Minneapolis, in which latter city he lived for two or three years, between the ages of eight and eleven, and during which time he sold newspapers on the street. He later lived on the farm with his father and was engaged in farming the home place until he was nineteen years old, when he began running a huckster wagon throughout that part of the county and was thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he became connected with his father in the general mercantile business at Lewisville, at the same time continuing to run his huckster wagon. In 1904 he and his father sold their store at Lewisville and he returned to Lake Crystal, but a little more than a year later, in the spring of 1906, he went to northern Wisconsin, where, in Sawyer county, he engaged in the lumber business, running an extensive logging camp until 1911, when, having exhausted the timber in the tract with which he was connected, he returned to Minnesota and engaged in the lumber business with his father at Madelia. Three years later, in 1914, he sold the lumber yard and has since given his whole attention to the development of his growing real estate interests, he now being recognized as one of the leading dealers in realty in this part of the state. Mr. McClean is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to



local political affairs. He was one of the first members of the town board of Lewisville and during his residence in Sawyer county, Wisconsin, was a member of the board of county commissioners; chairman of the township board and also chairman of the school board.

In 1899 Alfred J. McClean was united in marriage to Edith Rice, daughter of Allen Rice, and to this union three children have been born, Lucile, Evelyn and Mildred Isabel. Mr. and Mrs. McClean take a proper part in the social and cultural activities of their home town and are interested in all movements having to do with the general advancement of the interests of the community. Mr. McClean is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Brotherhood of America Yeomen and the Modern Brotherhood of America, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### PETER F. GOOSEN.

The farmer is beginning to realize that Nature, and her multitudinous servants, cannot forever maintain the pristine fertility of the alluvial valley and loamy plains unless the reckless waste of the soil's riches is checked by scientific rotation of crops or intelligent use of the legumes. Peter F. Goosen is one of the farmers of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, who understands this and he therefore keeps his fields rich and productive. He was born in Russia, June 14, 1874, and is a son of Henry F. and Elizabeth (Voth) Goosen, both natives of Russia, from which country they immigrated with their family to America in 1888, locating at Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and here they established the family home on a farm on which the father spent the rest of his life, being now deceased. The mother makes her home with the subject of this sketch. Eight children were born to these parents, namely: Elizabeth, Henry, Marie, deceased; Marie, Susie, Peter F., Anna and John.

Peter F. Goosen spent his boyhood in Russia, being fourteen years old when his parents brought him to the United States. He received his education in Russia, only attending school two weeks after coming to Minnesota. He helped his father with the farm work, and for the past six years has farmed for himself, operating two hundred acres in Mountain Lake township, on which he engages in general farming and stock raising, specializing in full-blood Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Mr. Goosen was married in 1909, to Maria Schultz, who was born south

of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, where she grew up and attended the district schools. She is a daughter of Jacob Schultz, Sr., of that community. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Goosen: Jacob is deceased, Marie Martha, Anna Elizabeth and Elizabeth Susie.

Mr. Goosen was reared in the Mennonite faith, of which his parents were always adherents, and he belongs to the local church of this denomination.

Jacob Schultz, Sr., and wife, Anna Voth, were both born in Russia, where they grew up and married, and immigrated to America in 1874, locating near Youngstown, South Dakota, and in 1875 removed to Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, to the farm on which their son, Jacob J. Schultz, now resides, the father purchasing eighty acres, and as he prospered he added to his original place until he became owner of five hundred and nine acres, all in one section, lying a little southwest of the village of Mountain Lake, where he farmed on an extensive scale, until retiring from active life. They still reside in the village of Mountain Lake, where they have a comfortable home. Mr. Schultz was supervisor of Mountain Lake township three terms and school clerk for twenty-one years. He and his family belong to the Mennonite church. He had seven children.

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#### EDSON A. GIBBS.

The name of Edson A. Gibbs, a progressive real estate dealer of St. James, Watonwan county, needs no introduction to the readers of this history, for he has long been one of the influential citizens of this locality.

Mr. Gibbs was born in Woodstock, Vermont, November 4, 1865. He is a son of Seth W. and Lavina W. (Holland) Gibbs. The father was born in Bridgewater, Vermont, in 1816, and died in Norwich, that state, August 5, 1865; the mother was born in Pittsfield, Vermont, in 1818; she came to Minnesota in 1895, and died in this state, January 19, 1891. Seth Gibbs devoted his active life to the hotel business. His family consisted of the following children: William W., who came to St. James in 1877, and became proprietor of the St. James Hotel, when it was a part of what is now the Boston Hotel; he became an extensive landowner in Watonwan county; his death occurred on September 25, 1914, at the age of seventy-three years. Myron D., second child of Seth W. Gibbs, came to Cameron Falls, Minne-

sota, in 1874, later locating in Tracy, this state, where he lived twenty-nine years; his death occurred in April, 1908. Edson A., subject of this sketch, was the third child in order of birth.

Edson A. Gibbs received his education in Vermont, attending the public schools and the Norwich classical and English boarding school, taking a preparatory course for Dartmouth College. He learned telegraphy when a young man, and became operator at Bradford, Vermont, but not finding this work congenial, he learned the watchmaker's trade, went to Waltham, Massachusetts, and had charge of a retail jewelry store for George H. Waltham from 1876 to 1883, then he crossed the continent, and located at Marysville, California, where he engaged in the hotel business until he came to Minneapolis in 1885 and engaged in business, handling gas and electric fixtures until 1890, in which year he opened the Hotel Gibbs in St. James, now the Boston House, the leading hotel in Watonwan county. He was proprietor of the same for five years, when he turned his attention to real estate and he has built up a very extensive and important business, his present offices being in the Olsen block. In reference to this line of endeavor, we quote the following from a local newspaper:

"There is probably no man in the county that personally knows of as many farms as does E. A. Gibbs, of the firm of Gibbs & Schweppe. Mr. Gibbs is the pioneer land man of the county. There is hardly a farm in the county that he does not know all about. He knows the good features and the bad features, where there are any, about every farm. He knows the farms that have yielded well for a series of years, and he knows those that have yielded extra well. His vast fund of information about the county is at the disposal of every prospective buyer. A talk with him will help to inspire confidence in the county. He can tell just what the crops have been for a period covering more than thirty years.

"Mr. Gibbs first started in business in St. James as proprietor of the Boston Hotel. While still in the hotel business he gradually got into the land business. In 1892 an irrigation project was opened in Montana and the attention of people was turned to that state. He secured the agency for this county to sell irrigated land, and in three years' time the land company he was working for had sold eighteen thousand acres of the land. While he was selling Montana land he was also selling Watonwan county land to buyers from other states to the south and east of us.

"In 1897 Mr. Gibbs took in as partner in the land business, Andrew Strum. They worked an irrigated project in the south Platte Valley, Colorado, and all the time kept getting buyers here from Iowa and Illinois to



buy this land as fast as the people sold it, to go other places. In 1899 he sold land in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, for ten dollars an acre that is now worth one hundred dollars an acre. From 1900 to 1910 he devoted more of his energies to locating people in this county, and many of our good farmers are thankful to Mr. Gibbs for inducing them to come to such a good country. In 1910 Mr. Gibbs took in as a partner, Henry Schweppe, and the firm has since been known as Gibbs & Schweppe. Having two good men on the job, it enables them to work both ends of the business. There are always people in the community who have money to invest in land and they generally want cheap land. There are renters who want to go where land is cheap and get a start for themselves. Mr. Schweppe has made a specialty of looking after the wants of those who are after cheaper lands, while Mr. Gibbs has continued to devote his time to get some of the best farmers from other states to settle here and help develop this country. Mr. Schweppe has sold many farms in Canada, largely to those who wanted to speculate in land. The firm has also sold land in Texas to those who want to get into a warmer country for the winters. The firm now has the state agency for an irrigated project in the Pecos Valley, Texas, and are locating other agents to work that country in the winter."

Politically, Mr. Gibbs is a Republican. He has been chairman of the Republican County Committee for many years. He served as mayor of St. James for two terms. He has done much to boost his town and county and has aided the general welfare of his locality in a most commendable manner. Fraternally, he is past master of Lodge No. 96, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; he is past high priest of Concord Chapter No. 25, Royal Arch Masons, and Mankato Commandery, Knights Templar, and also Order of Eastern Star; he is a member of St. James Lodge No. 207, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was first chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias lodge, instituted June 12, 1892. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Gibbs was married December 4, 1878, in Bradford, Vermont, to Kate T. Stevens, a daughter of Harry B. Stevens and wife. Mr. Stevens died in 1911 at the age of ninety-three years; his wife died in 1908 at the age of eighty-three years. For more than forty years he had charge of the White Mountain state lines. He was a distinguished character in that section of Vermont. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs one son was born, Harry W. Gibbs, whose birth occurred in Waltham, Massachusetts, June 13, 1881. He is now deputy sheriff of Watonwan county. He married Ella Kopp.



He is one of our well-known and respected citizens and a popular public servant.

The death of Mrs. Edson A. Gibbs occurred on February 22, 1916, and she was buried at Mt. Hope cemetery at St. James. She was a woman of many excellent characteristics and had a host of warm friends.

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### JOHN A. ENGESWICK.

John A. Engeswick, a well-known and substantial farmer of Storden township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Lamberton, treasurer of his school district and in other ways actively identified with the civic life of his community, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since his boyhood. He was born at Namsos, a harbor town on the middle coast of Norway, January 26, 1861, son of Michael Johnson and Ellen Sophia Engeswick, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1868 and settled in Allamakee county, Iowa. Three years later the Engeswicks came to Minnesota and settled in Cottonwood county. Michael J. Engeswick homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 8 in Storden township, established his home there and there spent the rest of his life, an industrious farmer and a good neighbor. He was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. They were the parents of two sons, the subject of this sketch having a younger brother, Segvert Engeswick.

John A. Engeswick was about seven years old when his parents came to this country and settled in Iowa and was about ten when they came to Minnesota. He was reared on the homestead farm in Storden township, completing his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the home place. He early began farming on his own account and in 1884 became proprietor of the farm on which he is now living and where he has since made his home. Starting in a small way there, he prospered in his farming operations and gradually enlarged his holdings until now he is the owner of a well-kept and profitably cultivated place of two hundred and forty acres and has long been looked upon as one of the leading farmers in that section of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. Mr. Engeswick has given thought-

ful attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as treasurer of his home school district. He has a pleasant home and he and his family are very comfortably situated.

Mr. Engeswick married Senna B. Olson and to this union fourteen children have been born, Hilda, Ella, Anna, Edna, Sidney, Mattie, Clifford, Neva, Cora, Arnold, Raymond, Willard, Russell and Zola. Mr. Engeswick has served as trustee of his church. He and his wife have ever given their earnest attention to local good works and are helpful members of the community in which they live.

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#### ADOLPH GRAFF.

Adolph Graff, chairman of the board of supervisors of Amboy township, Cottonwood county, and one of the progressive farmers of that township, proprietor of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Jeffers, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in the city of Mankato on December 20, 1874, son of Lewis and Amelia (Langhoff) Graff, the former also a native of Minnesota and the latter of Germany, who are now living retired.

Lewis Graff was born in Blue Earth county, this state, a member of one of the earliest pioneer families of that section of the state, and for years was engaged in farming in that county, but in 1892 he became a building contractor and followed that line until his retirement from business. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There are six of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Lewis, Harry, Nora, Edward and Walter.

Adolph Graff received his schooling in the Mankato schools and as a young man began farming on his own account in Blue Earth county. In 1896 he moved into Cottonwood county, locating in Amboy township, where, the next year, in 1897, he bought the tract of eighty acres on which he now lives. The next year, in 1898, he married and bought an adjoining quarter section. He prospered in his farming operations and in 1915 bought another tract of eighty acres adjoining and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of three hundred and twenty acres and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Graff has given considerable attention to the raising of

Durham cattle and has done very well. He is a Republican and has long given close attention to local civic affairs, having been a member of the board of supervisors for the past six or seven years and has been serving as chairman of that board for the past three years. He also gives much attention to the general business activities of his home community and is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Elevator Company at Jeffers.

In 1898 Adolph Graff was united in marriage to Alvina Quiram, daughter of Stephen Quiram, and to this union eight children have been born, Nora, Esther, Romey, Emilie, Ethel, Gilbert, Millard and a baby girl. Mr. and Mrs. Graff are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in all local good works and are helpful in promoting all movements designed to further the best interests of their home community.

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#### SWEN L. SWENSON.

Swen L. Swenson, a well-to-do farmer of Highwater township, Cottonwood county, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. He was born on a homestead farm on June 8, 1882, son of Lars and Birgit (Opsata) Swenson, natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota in 1870 and later became pioneer settlers in Cottonwood county, where the latter is still living.

Lars Swenson was born in 1845 and was reared on a farm in his native land. In 1870 he came to Minnesota and located in Olmsted county, but remained there only about a year, at the end of which time he moved over into Cottonwood county, which at that time was attracting much attention among homeseekers in the Northwest, and homesteaded a quarter of a section in Highwater township, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life. Lars Swenson became very successful in his farming operations and as he prospered added to his holdings until he became recognized as one of the largest landowners in that part of the county. Not only was he diligent in his own business, but he ever gave a good citizen's attention to public affairs and from the beginning of his residence here proved a potent factor in the great task of developing the civic and other interests of the new country. He was a Democrat and served the public in numerous official capacities, being a member of the board of county commissioners at the time of his death, a position which he had held for years. His widow is still living on the old home place. She is a member



of the Norwegian Lutheran church, as was her husband, and they took a prominent part in the organization of that church in their home community in the early days. They were the parents of eight children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Henning L. Halvor, Orin, Theodore, Olena, Hannah and Laura. After the death of Lars Swenson his estate was divided among his children and all are doing well their respective parts in the community, the family long having been one of the representative and influential families of Cottonwood county.

Swen L. Swenson was reared on the homestead farm on which he was born and became a very capable and practical farmer. He received his schooling in his home township and at Wilder and from boyhood was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and in carrying on the extensive agricultural operations undertaken by his father. Upon the death of his father he came into possession of the fine farm of two hundred acres in Highwater township, where he is now living, and which he has improved in excellent shape and brought to a high state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done very well. Mr. Swenson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and gives his earnest support to the same, as well as to all agencies for good hereabout. He is inclined to be independent in his political views, preferring to reserve his support for the best men in politics irrespective of party.

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#### MICHAEL SIZER.

Michael Sizer, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of St. James township, Watonwan county, is a native son of Minnesota, born in Hennepin county, in the immediate neighborhood of the city of Minneapolis, June 1, 1864, son of Thomas and Theresa (Holscher) Sizer, the former a native of England and the latter of Germany, to whom two sons were born, the subject of this sketch having an elder brother, Thomas.

Mrs. Theresa Sizer came to Minnesota in 1864, the year in which her youngest son was born, and located in Hennepin county, where she spent the rest of her life, her death occurring at Minneapolis in 1894. She was born in Germany in 1825, daughter of Moritz Holscher and wife, both natives of that same country, the former of whom was born in 1800, and who came to the United States in 1856, locating in New York, where Theresa Holscher was married to Thomas Sizer some time afterward. After the



Civil War her parents came West and settled in Iowa, where her mother died. Her father later moved to Minneapolis, where his death occurred in 1873. Mrs. Sizer was the eldest of five children born to her parents, the others being Joseph, Frank, Louise and Moritz.

Michael Sizer grew to manhood in the neighborhood of Minneapolis and received his schooling in both the public and parochial schools. He early learned the tinner's trade and for nine years was employed at that trade, after which he began farming and has ever since followed that pursuit. In 1886 he married and about four years later came to this part of the state, arriving in Watonwan county on November 6, 1890. Upon arriving here Mr. Sizer bought three hundred and twenty acres in St. James township and there established his home, having lived there ever since, long having been recognized as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county. Upon taking possession of his farm he set out a fine grove and otherwise beautified the place. He has a substantial residence, well-kept farm buildings and has ever carried on his farming operations along up-to-date lines. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well in all his operations. Mr. Sizer is independent in his political views, as he always has been, and gives close attention to local political affairs. For six years he served as chairman of the township board and for six years has been a member of the local school board, while in other ways he has contributed of his time and ability to the public service.

It was in 1886, at Minneapolis, that Michael Sizer was united in marriage to Mary Sandmeyer, who was born in Germany, February 8, 1864, and who had come to the United States with her parents, John J. and Mary (Sandhenry) Sandmeyer, in 1877, the family proceeded to Minnesota and locating in Watonwan county, where Mr. Sandmeyer bought five hundred and forty acres of land and established his home, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring in 1908, at the age of seventy-one years. His widow is still living, at the age of seventy-seven. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Sizer was the first-born, the others being Frank (deceased), Anna, Katie, Theresa (deceased), Frank, Joseph and John. To Mr. and Mrs. Sizer ten children have been born, as follow: Michael John, Mary Anna, Frank L., Alphos J., Joseph J., George J., Bernard S., Gertrude (deceased), Clara and Thomas J. The Sizers ever have given proper attention to the general social activities of their home community and have done much toward promoting the general development of the section in which they have so long made their home.

## LARS O. JACOBSEN.

Lars O. Jacobsen, well-known stock shipper at Butterfield and one of the most progressive and up-to-date farmers of Watonwan county, owner of a fine farm east of St. James, in Rosendale township, now operated by his eldest son, George T. Jacobsen, is a native of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born on a farm in Helle, September 14, 1861, son of Ole and Gertrude Jacobsen, the father of whom died in 1865, leaving four children, Jacob, Lars O., Cecelia and Abraham, all of whom are still living. Ole Jacobsen married, secondly, Matsey Noriedi and to that union four children also were born, Gertrude, Sjore, Peter and Soren, all of whom are living. Ole Jacobsen spent all his life in his native land and lived to be eighty-two years of age.

Lars O. Jacobsen grew up on the paternal farm in Norway and received careful schooling. In the spring of 1883, he then being twenty-one years of age, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, arriving at Madelia in May of that year. The first year after his arrival here he spent with his uncle, Abraham Jacobsen, who is still living in the village of Grogan, and then for two summers was engaged working on the railroad section. He then began working as a railroad contractor and for several years was quite successfully engaged in that line, he afterward taking up farming, at first renting, but presently buying a farm of one hundred and eighty acres near Grogan, in Rosendale township, which he sold to advantage two years later and then bought the farm in section 18 of that same township, east of St. James, which he still owns, and there he made his home for twenty-two years, becoming a very successful farmer. In 1914 he retired from the farm, bought a desirable tract of thirteen acres adjoining the town of Butterfield on the east, built a fine house there and has since made his home there, giving his chief attention to his extensive stock-shipping interests, his eldest son, George T. Jacobsen, managing the farm. For years Mr. Jacobsen has given serious attention to the breeding of pure-bred Hereford stock and he and his son have a fine herd of Herefords on the farm. Their farming operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods and their place is regarded as one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farm in that part of the county. Mr. Jacobsen is a Republican and for six years served as treasurer of Rosendale township.

In June, 1894, Lars O. Jacobson was united in marriage to Mary Olson, who was born in Norway in 1863, daughter of Thron and Nicholina Olson, who came to Minnesota in 1872 and settled on a farm near Madelia, later

moving to St. James, where Thron Olson died in 1891, at the age of seventy-three years, his widow surviving him until in June, 1913, she being eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. Thron Olson and wife had two children, Mrs. Jacobsen having an elder brother, Ole Olson. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen seven children have been born, George T., Arthur, Norwell, Mabel, Obert, Lillian and Gladys, all of whom are living save Arthur, who died at the age of six months. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all local good works, ever concerned in movements having to do with the promotion of the community interest.

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### JACOB P. DOERKSEN.

Jacob P. Doerksen, a well-known farmer of Midway township, Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, is a native of Russia, born on a farm in the southern part of that country, on October 7, 1863, son of Peter and Anna Doerksen, who came to the United States in 1876 and proceeded to Minnesota, settling in Cottonwood county, where they spent the rest of their lives. Upon coming here, Peter Doerksen bought two hundred and forty acres of land in Mountain Lake township and there established his home. He later added to that farm by the purchase of an adjoining "eighty" and became a very substantial farmer. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Katherine, Peter, Frank, George, Bernard, John and Abraham. The mother of these children died in 1877, the year after coming to this country, and Peter Doerksen married, secondly, Lena Dick. His death occurred in 1895.

Jacob P. Doerksen was about fourteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1876 and he spent his youth on the home farm, proving of valuable assistance to his father in the work of developing the home farm and when he was grown began farming on his own account and presently bought a quarter of a section of land in Jackson county, where he settled, proceeding to develop the same and there he lived until 1910, when he returned to Cottonwood county and bought a quarter of a section in section 20, Midway township, where he established his home and where he has lived ever since. Upon taking possession of the latter place he began



improving the same by the erection of a substantial house and farm buildings in keeping with the same and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated place. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Doerksen gives considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

In 1891 Jacob P. Doerksen was united in marriage to Sarah Thaisen, who was born in Russia in 1873, and to this union ten children were born, of whom eight are living, Jacob, Sarah, Peter, Frank, Bernard, Anna, Lena and Lizzie, and two who died in infancy, Peter and David. The mother of these children died at her home in Midway township in 1913.

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### JOHANN D. LUDEMANN.

Johann D. Ludemann, a well-to-do farmer and stockman of Cottonwood county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Amboy and Delton townships, with a pleasant home on rural route No. 1, out of Jeffers, is a native of Iowa, born on a farm in Butler county, that state, September 20, 1877, son of Diedrich and Johanna (Brinkman) Ludemann, natives of Germany and substantial farming people in Iowa.

Diedrich Ludemann was reared on a farm in Germany and received his education in the government schools there. When twenty-three years of age he came to the United States and settled in Grundy county, Iowa, where for a year he was engaged at farm labor as a hired hand. He then married and for two years thereafter lived on a rented farm of eighty acres, after which he bought the farm and for two years more continued to make that place his home. During these two years his home was twice destroyed by fire. He then sold the place for twenty-four dollars an acre and went up into Butler county, where for eleven dollars and fifty cents an acre he bought five hundred and forty acres of wild prairie land and there he established his permanent home. He began farming on a large scale and presently became the owner of fourteen hundred and fifty acres of land, seven hundred acres of which was in one tract. There Diedrich Ludemann spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on January 24, 1890, he then being forty-four years of age. His widow later married C. Primus and is now living at Wellsburg, Iowa. Diedrich Ludemann and wife were the parents of twelve children, all of whom are living and of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in



order of birth, the others being as follow: Bena, who married Henry Uenhoff, a farmer of Butler county, Iowa; Johanna, who married Jell Schuermann, of that same county; Sander, who married Lena Wirtz and is living at Fairmount, this state; Gertie, who married Ralph Wesels and is living on a part of the old Ludemann farm in Iowa; Harm, who married Lena Miller and is also living on the old home farm; Ettie, who married Honno Burme and lives at Fairmount, this state; Mary, who married Dick Lindeman, of Buttler county, Iowa; Lena, who married Jacob Bohlen and lives near Mason City, Iowa; George, who married Tina DeVries and lives at Aplington, Iowa; Jarena, widow of Luie Peters, now living at Aplington, and Diedrich, who married Ettie Schuerman and lives near Aplington.

Johann D. Ludemann was reared on the paternal farm where he was born in Iowa, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of the same. He was about thirteen years old when his father died and he remained on the farm with his mother until his marriage in 1898, having charge, with his elder brother, Sander, of his mother's extensive farming operations. For a year after his marriage Mr. Ludemann rented a farm of three hundred and twenty acres from his father-in-law and then rented from his mother five hundred and forty acres of her big farm, including the old home place, and was engaged in farming the same for three years, at the end of which time he secured two hundred acres of the old home farm in his own right and for three years was engaged in farming that tract. He then, in the fall of 1901, rented his farm and came to Minnesota, locating in Cottonwood county, where he invested in land, and two years later sold his Iowa farm. Upon coming here, Mr. Ludemann bought three hundred and twenty acres on the range line between Amboy and Delton townships, in Cottonwood county, a quarter of a section in section 25 of the former township and a quarter in section 30 of the latter, and there he established his home and has maintained his residence ever since. The land was but partially improved and for four years after taking possession of the same, Mr. Ludemann and his wife lived in an old house that stood on the place. He then built a new house and he and his family are now very comfortably situated. The house has a basement thirty-two by thirty-two feet, is heated by steam, lighted by acetylene gas, as is the barn, and is piped for hot and cold water. In addition to his extensive general farming, Mr. Ludemann has given considerable attention to stock raising and has done very well in that line. He has an automobile and manages his farm along up-to-date lines generally, long having been regarded as one of the leading farmers in that part of the county.

In March, 1898, in Butler county, Iowa, Johann D. Ludemann was

united in marriage to Tilke Schuerman and to this union have been born six children, Hannah, Edward, Diedrich, Margaret, Clara and Nellie, all of whom are at home. Mr. Ludemann is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He and his family are members of the Dutch Reformed church and take a general interest in all local good works, being willing promoters of whatever movements are designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.

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### HARRIS MITCHELL.

The history of the past decades proves that the agriculture of the United States, if not actually on the decline has not made the strides forward that it should have, and the result of this affects the producer and consumer alike in one respect—a rapid increase in the high cost of living. One of the wide-awake farmers of Madelia township, Watonwan county, is Harris Mitchell, who was born in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, March 27, 1863, and is a son of T. J. and Anna C. (Harris) Mitchell. The father was born and reared in the northern part of Scotland, from which country he came to America when a young man, locating in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he bought a farm. He was the son of John Mitchell, a farmer, who spent his life in Scotland. T. J. Mitchell married after coming to Minnesota. He spent his last days in retirement near Los Angeles, California, where his death occurred in September, 1910. His widow is now living in Potterville, California. To these parents the following children were born: W. J., Anna C., Harris, Luella and Cyril.

Harris Mitchell grew up on the farm where he worked when a boy during the crop seasons, and he received his education in the public schools in Blue Earth county, also attended the Curtis College, or Minneapolis Academy, for some time, after which he returned to the farm and lived at home until he was twenty-nine years of age, when he married Fannie Estes, to which union three children have been born, Harold, Eldon and Cyril. He became owner of a good farm of about two hundred acres in Blue Earth county, where he farmed until he sold out and moved to Watonwan county, locating in Madelia, engaging in the ice business for two years, then moved to the country, buying the cherry farm, which he sold a few years later and purchased the place which he now owns. In 1913 his barn burned, containing a large quantity of hay and grain, but he rebuilt a large substantial barn the

following year. His place consists of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has placed all the improvements, including the planting of many box-elder and soft maple trees. He built a good residence in 1913. He believes in modern methods and pumps his water with a gasoline engine; has a large silo and other up-to-date improvements. In connection with general farming he handles annually from six hundred to twelve hundred Western sheep, and large numbers of hogs, especially Duroc-Jerseys.

Mr. Mitchell belongs to the Masonic Order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he was reared, his father having been quite active in the work of the same during his life time.

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### JENS TAKLE.

Jens Takle, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Ann township, Cottonwood county, and for years actively identified with the civic affairs of that township, having served at various times as clerk, treasurer and supervisor of the township, is a native son of Cottonwood county, born on the farm on which he now lives, and has been a witness to and a participant in the development of that part of the county since pioneer days. He was born on June 18, 1879, son of I. I. and Gudve Takle, natives of Norway and pioneers of Cottonwood county, the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Walnut Grove, in the neighboring county of Redwood.

About 1870 I. I. Takle and his wife came from Norway to Minnesota. They first settled in Goodhue county, but about two years later, in 1872, moved over into Cottonwood county. I. I. Takle homesteaded a quarter of a section in section 28 of Ann township and there established his home. He built a dug-out, with a sod roof, and that humble abode served as a home until he was able some time later to erect a more substantial dwelling. After he got a start he prospered in his farming operations, enlarged his holdings and became one of Ann township's most substantial and influential farmers. In 1908 he retired from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife moved to the neighboring town of Walnut Grove, where he died on March 30, 1915, and where his widow is still living. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Kirsti, widow of Andrew Marson; Ebert, who is with his mother in Walnut Grove, and Henry, who is farming in Ann township.

Jens Takle grew to manhood on the homestead farm on which he was



born, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and at Lamberton, helping on the farm during the summers, and remained at home until his marriage in the fall of 1900. He then started farming for himself on an "eighty" secured from his father and upon the retirement of the elder Takle from the old home farm two years later, moved to the latter place, assumed the management of the same and there has lived ever since, he and his family being very pleasantly situated. Mr. Takle is a progressive farmer and in addition to farming the old home place, rents an additional "eighty" from his brother, Ebert, and is thus farming about three hundred and twenty acres. He has given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and has done very well. Mr. Takle for years has given close attention to the affairs of local government and has served the township in various public capacities, supervisor for three years, clerk for two years, treasurer three years and school clerk for a number of years. He is a member of the East Ann Farmers' Club and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

It was on September 6, 1906, that Jens Takle was united in marriage to Charlotte Kopperud and to this union four children have been born, Gunda, Ira, Carrol and John. Mr. and Mrs. Takle are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in the general beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works, helpful in promoting all proper movements thereabout.

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### JOHN HEPPNER.

John Heppner, one of the largest landowners in Watonwan county, proprietor of a fine home place in Butterfield township, vice-president of the Peoples Bank of Butterfield, former county commissioner and for many years actively identified with the agricultural, civic and business life of the community in which he has so long resided, is a native of Russia, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1876. He was born on March 19, 1858, son of Deitrich and Mary Heppner, both natives of that same country, the former born in 1816 and the latter in 1821, whose last days were spent in Watonwan county, where they settled in pioneer days.

In 1876 Deitrich Heppner and his family came from Russia to this country, proceeding straightway out to Minnesota and settling in Watonwan county, where they arrived on July 20 of that year. Deitrich Heppner home-



steaded a quarter of a section of land in Adrian township and there established his home. He died there in 1882, before he had the place "proved up" and his widow completed the homestead requirements and continued to make her home there the rest of her life, her death occurring in 1906. Deitrich and Mary Heppner were the parents of fourteen children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the tenth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary, born on September 23, 1841; Margaret, May 1, 1843; Cornelius, November 18, 1844; Jacob, 1846, deceased; Deitrich, September 12, 1847, who died in infancy; Deitrich, second, December 7, 1848; Susanna, April 20, 1851, who died in 1855; Jacob, March 26, 1853; Peter, July 19, 1855; Susanna, second, February 19, 1859; Aganeta, April 27, 1861, who died on July 6, 1866; Helena, December 8, 1864, who died on January 21, 1878, and Erdman, December 11, 1866. Deitrich Heppner and his wife were members of the Mennonite church and their children were reared in that faith.

John Heppner was about eighteen years old when he came to Minnesota with his parents in 1876 and he has lived here ever since. He remained on the homestead farm in Adrian township, assisting in the development of the same until after his marriage, when, in 1883, he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 8 of Butterfield township and there he established his home. Mr. Heppner put out a fine grove and set about improving his farm in the most substantial manner. He succeeded from the very start of his farming operations and as he prospered gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of one thousand three hundred and eighty acres of land and is accounted one of the most substantial residents of Watonwan county. He continues to make his home on the original quarter section on which he started his operations in 1883 and has a beautiful place, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Heppner, in addition to his extensive farming operations, has given considerable attention to general business affairs and is the vice-president of the Peoples Bank of Butterfield. He also has taken an active part in local political affairs, long having been counted one of the leaders of the Republican party in his part of the county. For many years he has served on the township board and the school board and also served for some time as a member of the board of county commissioners.

It was in 1882, in Butterfield township, that John Heppner was united in marriage to Anna Dick, who also was born in Russia, December 26, 1861, daughter of Ben and Aganeta Dick, natives of that same country, the former of whom came to Minnesota in 1875 and settled in Butterfield township, Watonwan county, with his eight children, his wife having died in her native land in 1871. Ben Dick settled on an eighty-acre farm in Butterfield town-

ship, where he lived for years, but later went to Saskatchewan, Canada, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1908, he then being seventy-eight years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Heppner seven children have been born, namely: Mary, born on May 5, 1883, who died just two weeks later; Mary, second, April 5, 1884; Ben, October 6, 1886; Deitrich, June 29, 1888; John, October 10, 1891; Jacob, October 8, 1893, and Peter, January 19, 1902. The Heppners are members of the Mennonite church, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest, as well as in all local good works, and have long been helpful in promoting measures for the general good of the community in which they live.

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### ROY W. LEWIS.

Roy W. Lewis, one of the prominent and successful young farmers of Watonwan county, was born on October 15, 1888, in Antrim township. He is the son of James and Bertha I. (Martin) Lewis.

Roy W. Lewis was educated in the common schools of the county and attended the Agricultural school at St. Paul for fourteen months. He is progressive and successful in the practice of the modern methods of tilling the soil.

On March 13, 1912, Roy W. Lewis was united in marriage to Alice Goore, who was born in Blue Earth county, on February 25, 1891. Mrs. Lewis is the daughter of George and Sarah (Polk) Goore, both of whom are natives of England, and came to the United States and located in this section twenty-five years ago. George and Sarah Goore are the parents of the following children: William, Alice, Earl, Hazel, Alfred, Lena, Robert, Leona and Percy.

Charles O. Martin, the maternal grandfather of Roy W. Lewis, was born in Maine on September 21, 1834. He was the son of Samuel and Ann (Goss) Martin. John Martin, the grandfather of Charles O. Martin, was a farmer in Maine.

Samuel Martin and wife were the parents of the following children: James, Jane, Sarah and Charles O. Samuel Martin died on March 19, 1851, Mrs. Martin surviving some years and died at the age of eighty-three.

Charles O. Martin received his education and grew to manhood in his native state of Maine. Here he was married to Dorcas Marston and to this union were born the following children: Ida, Bertha, the mother of Roy W. Lewis; Edgar and H. L. For thirty-six years Charles O. Martin bought

stock, in the territory about Lewisville, where he lived. He has been supervisor of the township and has served on the school board. He gave the land for the location of school No. 8, Antrim township.

The home farm of Roy W. Lewis consists of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. The large barn was built in 1911 and the modern house erected in 1915. The farm is situated two miles west of Lewisville in section 6, Antrim township.

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### CHRISTIAN NICHOLAS NELSON.

Christian Nicholas Nelson, clerk of Amo township, Cottonwood county, and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of that township, is a native of Illinois, born in the city of Chicago, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was a child. He was born in Chicago on November 8, 1869, son of Christopher and Anna (Nicholas) Nelson, natives of Denmark, who later came to Minnesota and the former of whom is still living in this state, for many years a prominent resident of Long Lake township, in the neighboring county of Watonwan.

Christopher Nelson was born in Denmark on September 17, 1841, son of Nels and Anna Margareta (Sonneson) Christensen, both natives of that same county, and grew to manhood there, becoming a proficient wagon maker and house builder. He served as a soldier of his king in the war with Germany in 1864-65 and in the year following, 1866, came to the United States and located at Chicago, where he began work as a carpenter. There, two or three years later, he married and continued to live in that city for about seven years, at the end of which time he came to Minnesota with his family and settled at Mankato, where for some time he was engaged at work in a sash and door factory. He then moved to Spring Valley, in Fillmore county, and worked at his trade as a carpenter there for about seven years, or until 1881, when he moved to Watonwan county and settled on the farm on which he is still living, in Long Lake township. Upon locating there, Christopher Nelson bought a farm of eighty acres, to which he later added an adjoining tract of forty acres, in addition to which he also bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Martin county, which latter tract he has since sold. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Long Lake and his children were reared in that faith. Christopher Nelson has been thrice married. It was about the year 1869, in Chicago, that he married Anna Nicholas, who had arrived in



that city not long before from her native Denmark, and to that union two children were born, Christian N., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Anna. The mother of these children died in 1874 and in 1875, in this state, Christopher Nelson married Martha Ringhort, who was born in Norway and who had come to Minnesota with her parents, Over Ringhort and wife, the latter of who was a Goodwith, when she was a child, the family settling in Model township, in Blue Earth county. To that union four children were born, Edward, William, Albert and Emma. The mother of these children died in 1889 and the next year Mr. Nelson married her sister, Olena Ringhort, who died in 1893, leaving one child, a son, Martin.

Christian N. Nelson, eldest of the seven children born to Christopher Nelson, was but a child when he came to Minnesota with his parents and was about eleven years old when his father moved from Spring Valley to the farm in the vicinity of Long Lake. He completed the course in the common schools at Long Lake and later began to work on his own account on a farm in Antrim township in that same county. In 1892 he went up into North Dakota and worked there for a year and then went into the woods of northern Minnesota, where he worked for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Watonwan county and spent the summer working in a creamery at St. James. During the following winter, 1894-5, he took a course in the dairy school of the Minnesota State University and then began working in a creamery at Windom, later being given charge of the creamery in Amo township, Cottonwood county, and conducted the same from 1895 to 1901. In the meantime he had purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives in Amo township and in 1900, the year following his marriage, began actively to farm the same, establishing his home there and there he has lived ever since. In addition to the eighty acres which he owns, Mr. Nelson rents and farms an adjoining tract of seventy acres and has done very well, both with his farming and with his stock raising. During his residence in Amo township Mr. Nelson has given close attention to local civic affairs and since the year 1900 has served as township clerk, the longest continuous period of service in that office ever performed by one incumbent. He also at various times has been school clerk. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

In 1899 Christian N. Nelson was united in marriage to Mattie M. Felch, who was born in Mower county, this state, daughter of William and Lucy (Lyman) Felch, the former a native of the state of Washington and the latter of this state, and to this union four children have been born, Leslie



Felch, Myrtle Lucile, Cornelius Lyman and Lyman Warren. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in church affairs, as well as in all local good works.

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### DAVID C. JANZEN.

Of the farmers of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, who not only raises big crops, but who keeps his farm in an attractive condition, everything well cared for, thus presenting to the visitor a pleasing appearance, is David C. Janzen. He was born in Russia, October 8, 1864, and is a son of Cornelius and Sarah (Nickel) Janzen, both born in Russia, from which country they removed to America with their family in 1878, landing at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, on July 6 of that year, the father buying the farm on which the subject of this sketch now lives, lying immediately south of the village. He first purchased eighty acres, on which the farm buildings now stand, later added one hundred and sixty acres. He began improving the place and erected the present building. However, the subject of this sketch has remodeled the dwelling and put up a new barn, he having purchased the place of his father in 1901, the latter living retired in the village until his death, in 1914, and here his widow still resides. Five children, who grew up, were born to these parents, namely: David C., of this sketch; Sarah and Augunita are twins; Cornelius and Helen.

David C. Janzen spent his boyhood in Russia, where he attended school, finishing his education after coming to Minnesota. He grew up on the home farm, and started out as a farmer for himself in Midway township, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres, which he operated five years, then moved to the homestead which he owns and which he has kept tilled and well improved. He is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of his township.

Mr. Janzen was married in 1894, to Agnes Geortzen, who was born in Russia, and is a daughter of William Geortzen, who brought his family to Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in 1876, where he established the future home of the family. He and his wife are now deceased. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Janzen, namely: David, William, Esther, deceased; Cornelius, deceased; Alfred, Esther, the second; Lydia and Ferdinand. Mr. Janzen was township treasurer for a number of years.

## SIVER HAGE.

Step by step Siver Hage, of Madelia, Watonwan county, has worked his way up from a modest beginning to a position of no mean importance in his community. He came to the New World from a foreign strand, "A youth to fortune and to fame unknown." Thus he is deserving of much credit for what he has accomplished unaided.

Mr. Hage was born in Norway in 1840, and is a son of Jorgen and Kari T. (Halstenstande) Hage, both natives of Norway, where they spent their entire lives. The father was a school teacher. He was twice married. Four children were born to his first union, which was with the mother of the subject of this sketch. His second wife bore him five children.

Siver Hage spent his boyhood in Norway and was educated there, and there he began life for himself as a farmer when only fourteen years of age, and he continued for a period of thirteen years, immigrating to America in 1867, spending two years in Okanto, Wisconsin, removing to Brown county, this state, in 1869, and took up a homestead of eighty acres in Lake Hanska township. He added to his original holdings until he had a good farm of three hundred acres. He continued to reside there until the fall of 1876, then came to Madelia township, Watonwan county, Minnesota, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres on which he continued farming until 1884 when he moved to the village of Madelia. He has continued to reside here but has owned and operated various farms near the village, at present owning two hundred acres in this county. He formerly owned two fine farms near New Ulm, in Nicollet county, containing two hundred acres and two hundred and forty acres, respectively. In 1884 he started a lumber yard at Madelia, which he has continued to operate to the present time, enjoying a large business all the while. The business was incorporated in 1902, with Mr. Hage as president, under the firm name of S. Hage Lumber Company. He is also a stockholder in the Madelia State Bank, which he helped organize, and in which he was a director from the time of its organization until 1914 when he retired. He also assisted in organizing the LaSalle State Bank, in which he is still a stockholder; also helped organize the Security State Bank of Hanska, in which he is still a stockholder and director. He was formerly president of the last named institution. He is a stockholder in the National Citizens Bank of Mankato, and the Peoples Bank of St. Paul. He has worked hard, managed well, dealt honorably with his fellow men and is deserving of the universal

respect and good will which are his. He is one of the most substantial and influential men of affairs of Watonwan county.

Mr. Hage was married in 1873, to Ingri Serumgard, a native of Norway, and to this union the following children have been born: Anna M. Helling, George S., Karen P., Emil G. and Segar.

Mr. Hage is a Unitarian in his religious beliefs. He has long been active in party affairs and has done much toward the upbuilding and betterment of his town and county. While living in Hanska township he served as justice of the peace, and was also assessor while living there; township treasurer and treasurer of the school board, holding these offices until he removed from the township in 1876. He subsequently served as justice of the peace in Madelia township, and was also assessor two years in that township, and was for two years a member of the board of aldermen of the village of Madelia. As a public servant he has always performed his duties in an able, faithful and highly acceptable manner.

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#### HENRY F. LOEWEN.

The business of farming comprises many points—the consideration of what crops to grow, how to grow them to the best advantage, whether for sale or for use on the farm. It brings out more than anything else the business acumen of the farmer, and is more or less the very keynote of success or failure. One of the energetic farmers of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, is Henry F. Loewen, who was born in the above named township and county on March 26, 1879. He is a son of Frank and Katherina (Wall) Loewen, the mother a sister of J. H. Wall, who is mentioned elsewhere in this book. The parents of the subject of this sketch were both born in Russia, where they spent their earlier years, immigrating to America in 1876, locating one mile north of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, becoming owners of about two hundred and forty acres of good land there, on which they spent the rest of their lives. Their family consisted of the following children: Frank, deceased; Anna, deceased; Henry F., of this review; Frank, the second; Jacob was next in order; Lizzie is the wife of Abe Wiebe; Nick and John are the two youngest. All these children are farmers and live near Mountain Lake. The father was for some time school director in his district. He and his family were always adherents of the Mennonite faith.

Henry F. Loewen grew up on the farm and he received his education in the district schools of Midway township and Mountain Lake village. He has always engaged in farming, and is now owner of one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land in Mountain Lake township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Loewen was married in 1900, to Katie Niessen, a native of Russia and a sister of Jacob Niessen. She came to America when young. Six children, all living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Loewen, namely: Mary, Henry, Frank, Tina, Jennie and Jacob.

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### CHARLES ANDERSON.

One of the sterling pioneers in Long Lake township, Watonwan county is Charles Anderson, who is now living in retirement in the city of St. James, after a successful career as railroader and farmer. He has lived to see many great changes come over the face of the land since he located on the wild prairie here forty years ago, and he has played well his part in this development.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden, April 26, 1848. He is a son of Andres and Stina Peterson, both of whom spent their lives in Sweden. He took the name of Anderson upon coming to America.

Mr. Anderson grew to manhood in his native land and remained there until 1869, when he immigrated to America, arriving in Minnesota about May 15 of that year. He worked on the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad the first two or three years, on the construction of the road, when it was being built into this state. In 1876 he took up farming in Long Lake township, Watonwan county, developing a good farm from the raw prairie, and continued farming successfully until about 1906, when he retired from active life and has since lived in St. James. He became owner of five hundred acres of good land through his thrift and good management.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1876, to Louisa Jackson, a native of Sweden, and to their union the following children have been born: Elex, Sophia, Jennie, Mary, Fred, Rudolph and Roy.

Mr. Anderson has repeatedly been chairman of the township board and also supervisor of Long Lake township. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Elex Anderson was born on December 23, 1887, in Long Lake town-



ship, this county, and he grew up on the home farm and received a common school education. After leaving school he learned the carpenter's trade which he followed for seven years, also worked one year as a railway fireman, then turned his attention to general farming, which he has since continued with success. He operates two hundred acres, and makes a specialty of raising full-blood Poland China hogs. He was married on April 2, 1913, to Edith Newberg, a native of Watonwan county, where she grew up and was educated. She is a daughter of Nels Newberg. One child has been born to this union, Marion Anderson. Elex Anderson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### LOUIS E. SCHROEDER.

It is now becoming generally understood that the life of the man who lives closest to nature is the best life, and no class of men are in better position to receive the benefits which are thus to be derived than farmers. The life of Louis E. Schroeder, a retired farmer of Great Bend township, Cottonwood county, now living in Windom, has been pleasant and remunerative.

Mr. Schroeder was born in Winona county, Minnesota, February 22, 1863, and he is a son of Martin and Henrietta (Meilicke) Schroeder, both natives of Brandenburg, Germany. He was about nineteen years old when he immigrated to the United States with his parents, the family locating on a farm on the Rock river, near Theresa, Wisconsin. He remained there, assisting his father with the work of the farm, five or six years, then came to Winona county, Minnesota, and bought one hundred and twenty acres, which he farmed for a number of years. He then moved to Blue Earth county and bought one hundred and sixty acres south of Mankato, which place he improved and continued to operate until a short time before his death. Although he remained on the farm, he spent his last days in retirement. It was in his house that the first meeting of the township officials of Lyon township was held, in Blue Earth county. His death occurred on May 18, 1881. His widow is still living, being now advanced in years, and makes her home with the subject of this sketch. To these parents nine children were born, all still living but one, namely: August M., Carl G., Louis E., Oscar H., Otilia H., Clara C., Bertha, Ida L., and William, who died in 1902.

Louis E. Schroeder grew up on the home farm, where he worked when

a boy, and he received a common school education. Upon the death of his father he took charge of the homestead, on which he remained until 1895, when he removed to Cottonwood county, locating in Great Bend township, where he bought a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, which he improved and operated with his usual success until 1913, when he retired from active life and located in Windom, where he purchased three and one-half acres within the city limits, on which ground he has a pleasant home. Politically, Mr. Schroeder is an independent voter. He attends the Baptist church.

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### NIC F. LOEWEN.

The man who produces double the customary crop of any one grain or grass, assumes a leadership in his community that brings responsibilities. His farm is an object of interest. When his work becomes known and his methods discussed, he is called a model farmer. Others want to see and learn and then do likewise. Nic F. Loewen, of Mountain Lake township, Cottonwood county, does not raise twice the amount of crops that his neighbors do, but he is nevertheless, a very painstaking farmer. He was born in Midway township, this county, on October 9, 1890, and is a son of Frank Loewen, of Russia, who came to Cottonwood county with the colony that formed the Mennonite settlement, about 1876. He devoted his active life to farming, becoming owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Carson township and two hundred acres in Midway township, Cottonwood county, in fact, he became one of the leading farmers of this locality and was an influential citizen. His family consisted of six children, namely: Henry, Frank, Jacob, Lizzie, Nic C. and John.

Nic F. Loewen grew up on the home farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his early education in the district schools of Midway township. He had a natural bent toward architecture, and when a boy turned his attention to tools instead of farming, learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed three years, but in 1913 he moved to his present excellent farm of one hundred and seven acres in Mountain Lake township, where he has since carried on general farming successfully.

Mr. Loewen was married in the fall of 1912, to Katie Dick, a daughter of Claus Dick and wife, of Cottonwood county, where she was reared to

womanhood and received her education in the common schools. To this union one child has been born, Wilmer Loewen.

Mr. Loewen was road overseer in 1915 and did good work on the roads of his district. He is a member of the Mennonite church.

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### JOHN ALBERT LANTZ.

John Albert Lantz, a successful farmer of Watonwan county, was born in Odin township on January 13, 1872, being the son of Carl Johan and Anna Sophia (Gustavson) Lantz.

Carl Johan Lantz was born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1868. Anna Sophia Lantz was also a native of Sweden and came to America in 1870. The young people met and later were married. Mr. Lantz first settled at Red Wing, where he worked on the railroad. During his first year in this country he, with three companions, walked from Red Wing to Odin township, where Mr. Lantz homesteaded eighty acres of land. He then returned afoot to his work on the railroad. This claim became his home and here he lived until his death on October 23, 1907. He was for a time township supervisor and assisted in the organization of the Kansas Lake Swedish church. To Carl and Anna Lantz were born the following children: John Albert, Charles E., Oscar Theodore, Emma Sophia, who died in 1892, and David Victor.

John Albert Lantz was educated in the early schools of the township and has always followed farming. He has one hundred and thirty acres and does general farming. In 1905 Mr. Lantz was married to Lillian Gustavson, the daughter of Nels and Ingeborg Gustavson, who located in Odin township in an early day. To this union one child, Emma Margaret, has been born.

John A. Lantz became chairman of his township at the age of twenty-six and held the office, with the exception of three years, until he became township clerk. He is now a candidate for county commissioner.

The mother of John A. Lantz is living on the old homestead with her son Victor. This is the farm that was homesteaded in an early day by the father. Charles E. Lantz, a brother of John A., after graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College, at St. Peter, and later receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Minnesota, is a college professor.

















